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In the Supreme Court of the United States

OCTOBER TERM, 1976

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

JAMES JUNIOR FINCH, PETITIONER

PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO UNITED
STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE
NINTH CIRCUIT

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(i)
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v.

JAMES JUNIOR FINCH, PETITIONER

PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI
TO UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR
THE NINTH CIRCUIT

James Junior Finch petitions for a writ of certiorari to review the judgment of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in this case.

OPINIONS BELOW

The opinion of the District Court (App. B, *Infra* PP. 1B) is reported at 395 F.Supp. 205 (D. Mont. 1975). The opinion of the Court of Appeals (App. A, *Infra* PP. 1A) is not yet reported.

JURISDICTION

The judgment of the Court of Appeals (App. A, *Infra* PP. 1A) was entered on December 22, 1976. A petition for rehearing was denied on February 1, 1977. The jurisdiction of this Court is invoked under 28 U.S.C. §1254(1).

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

The questions presented are the following:

1. Whether the double jeopardy clause precludes an appeal by the United States where, following submission of the cause to the District Court upon an agreed statement of fact, the District Court dismisses the information.
2. Whether the bed of that portion of the Big Horn River, a navigable stream, located within the exterior boundaries of the Crow Indian Reservation was reserved by the United States for the benefit of the Crow Tribe of Indians.
3. Whether the ordinance of the Crow Tribal Council

prohibiting fishing within the exterior boundaries of the Crow Indian Reservation to all but members of the Crow Tribe of Indians violates the Indian Civil Rights Act.

4. Whether the State of Montana, and its licensees, have a right to fish the Big Horn River from lands owned by the State of Montana riparian to the Big Horn River.

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION AND STATUTES INVOLVED

1. The Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution provides in pertinent part:

"... nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to twice put in jeopardy for life or limb ...".

2. The Criminals Appeals Act, 18 U.S.C. §3731, provides in pertinent part:

"In a criminal case an appeal by the United States shall lie to the Court of Appeals from a decision, judgment, or order of a District Court dismissing an indictment or information as to any one or more counts, except that no appeal shall lie where the double jeopardy clause of the United States Constitution prohibits further prosecution."

3. The Indian Civil Rights Act, 28 U.S.C. §1302, provides in pertinent part as follows:

"CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT. No indian tribe in exercising powers of self government shall ... (8) deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of its law ...".

STATEMENT

On May 16, 1974 the United States Attorney for the District of Montana, by way of information, charged:

"That on or about May 5, 1974, in the District of Montana, James Junior Finch, within the exterior boundaries of the Crow Indian Reservation, did without lawful authority or permission and for the purpose of fishing thereon, unlawfully and knowingly go upon land identified as located in Section 8, Township 5 South,

Range 32 East, M.P.M., Big Horn County, Montana, being a portion of the Big Horn River. That the said James Junior Finch was standing upon land belonging to the State of Montana for the benefit and use of its State Fish & Game Commission, while fishing in said Big Horn River, said river being indian trust land, and closed to hunting and fishing to all non Crow citizens, all contrary to the provisions of 18 U.S.C. §1165."

18 U.S.C. §1165 provides as follows:

"Whoever, without lawful authority or permission, willfully and knowingly goes upon any land that belongs to any indian or indian tribe, band or group, and either are held by the United States in trust or are subject to a restriction against alienation imposed by the United States, or upon any lands of the United States that are reserved for indian use, for the purpose of hunting, trapping, or fishing thereon, or for the removal of game, peltries, or fish therefrom, shall be fined not more than \$200.00 or imprisoned not more than 90 days, or both, and all game, fish and peltries in his possession shall be forfeited."

The petitioner first appeared by way of a motion to dismiss which was denied by the District Court. Thereafter the case was submitted to the District Court upon an agreed statement of fact wherein the parties, among other things, stipulated that the land described within the information was within the exterior boundaries of the Crow Indian Reservation, that the Crow Tribal Council of the Crow Indian Reservation had declared the Reservation closed to fishing by all non Crow citizens; that petitioner did not have permission to fish from the Crow Tribal authorities; that the land was patented under the General Allotment Act of 1867 and was owned by the State of Montana for the benefit of its Fish & Game Commission; that the petitioner fished in the Big Horn River; that the Big Horn River is a navigable stream; that 43.9% of

the inhabitants of the Crow Indian Reservation are non indians; that 31.1% of all land within the Crow Indian Reservation is owned by non indians; and that prior to the construction of the Yellowtail Dam, the area of the Big Horn River involved was not inhabited with brown and rainbow trout and that subsequent to said construction the Fish & Game Commission did stock the same with brown and rainbow trout.

The District Court, after considering the agreed statement of fact, reversed itself and dismissed the information and in so doing held that the bed of the Big Horn River was not owned by the Crow Tribe of Indians or held by the United States in trust for the Crow Tribe of Indians, that the ordinance of the Crow Tribe of Indians closing the river to fishing to all non members of the Crow Tribe was invalid and that the State of Montana, and its licensees, had a riparian right to fish the Big Horn River from lands owned by the State of Montana riparian to the Big Horn River.

The United States appealed pursuant to the Criminal Appeals Act, 18 U.S.C. §3731. The Court of Appeals concluded that jeopardy attached at the time the case was submitted to the District Court for decision but that the appeal was not barred because the proceedings after appeal would not require a determination of further factual issues before convicting or acquitting the defendant. The court of Appeals then directed itself to the merits of the appeal and reversed the District Court concluding that the bed of the Big Horn River was held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Crow Tribe of Indians, that the Tribal Ordinance prohibiting non members of the Crow Tribe from fishing within the exterior boundaries of the Crow Indian Reservation was valid and that the right of the State of Montana, as a riparian landowner, and its licensees, to fish in the Big Horn River was inferior to the regulatory powers of the Crow Tribe of Indians.

REASONS FOR GRANTING PETITION

1. The conclusion of the Court of Appeals that the appeal

in this case by the United States does not violate the double jeopardy clause is wrong and is in direct conflict with the decision of the Court in United States v. Jenkins, 420 U.S. 358. The Court of Appeals held that this case was governed by United States v. Wilson, 420 U.S. 332 and not United States v. Jenkins, *supra*. In Wilson the District Court, subsequent to a jury verdict of guilty, granted a post trial motion and dismissed the indictment. In Jenkins, following a bench trial, the District Court filed written findings of fact and conclusions of law based upon a decision of the Circuit Court of Appeals, United States v. Gearey, 368 F.2d 144, which was reversed by the Court in Ehlert v. United States, 402 U.S. 99, two months after Jenkins had been ordered to report for induction. The government argued in its appeal that the District Court was in error in concluding that Ehlert was not retroactive.

The Court, in Jenkins, in rejecting the government's appeal, stated that further proceedings of some sort devoted to the resolution of the factual issues going to the elements of the offense charged, would have been required upon reversal and remand. Even if the District Court were to receive no additional evidence, it would still be necessary for it to make supplemental findings. The same statement applies to this case. Upon remand to the District Court, the District Court will of necessity have to conduct some further proceedings. The District Court will have to make a determination as to whether or not the stipulated facts constitute the necessary elements of the offense charged.

2. The question of the ownership of the bed of a navigable stream flowing through an indian reservation has been before the Court on two previous occasion. In United States v. Holt State Bank, 270 U.S. 49 (1926) the Court held that the bed of the navigable water body in question had not been disposed of by the treaties with the Indian Tribe involved and was, therefore, reserved by the United States and became the property of

the State of Minnesota when it was admitted to the Union. In Choctaw Nation v. Oklahoma, 397 U.S. 620 (1969) the Court held, without reversing United States v. Holt State Bank, that the bed of the river was granted by the United States to the Indian Tribes involved by virtue of the treaties and therefore did not become the property of the State of Oklahoma when it was admitted to the Union.

The issue involved is one of national policy pertaining to the ownership of the beds of navigable water bodies. 43 U.S.C. §931, which dates from 1796, demonstrates that the policy of the United States has long been to distinguish between navigable and non navigable streams in determining the ownership of the bed of the stream. 43 U.S.C. §931 provides as follows:

"All navigable rivers within the territory occupied by public lands shall remain and be deemed public highways; and, at all cases where the opposite banks of any streams not navigable belong to different persons, the stream in the bed thereof shall be common to both."

In Shively v. Bowlby, 152 U.S. 1, 1893, the Court held that absent the clearest expression of intent to the contrary, it would not be presumed that the United States intended to divest itself of part of a river bed of a navigable stream. The rationale of Shively was relied upon by the Court in United States v. Holt State Bank, *supra*, wherein the Court concluded that the bed of the navigable water body had not been disposed of by the United States in entering into the treaties involved. In so doing, the Court stated that disposals by the United States

"During the territorial period are not lightly to be inferred, and should not be regarded as intended unless the intention was definitely declared or otherwise made very plain." United States v. Holt State Bank, 152 U.S. at 55.

In Choctaw Nation v. Oklahoma, *supra*, the Court concluded that the treaty involved did constitute a clear expression of intention to dispose of the bed of the navigable stream and that it therefore became owned by the tribes in question by virtue of the treaties and was not reserved by the United States for the benefit of the future state. The treaty involved provided for a fee patent to be issued to the Indian Tribes and further contained a promise that no part of the lands being conveyed was ever to be embraced in any territory or state. It was these facts which led the Court to distinguish the Holt State Bank decision and conclude that the bed of the river was the property of the Indian Tribes. The treaties with the Crow Tribe of Indians, the Treaty of Fort Laramie of 1851, 11 Stat. 749, II Kapp., Indian Affairs: Laws & Treaties 594 and the Treaty with the Crows of 1868, 15 Stat. 649 II Kapp., Indian Affairs: Laws & Treaties 1008 do not provide for the issuance of a fee patent to the Crow Tribe of Indians nor do they contain a promise that no part of the lands involved shall ever be embraced in any territory or state.

The decision of the Court of Appeals is that the mere creation of an indian reservation, having within its boundaries, a navigable stream, is evidence of the intention of the United States to deviate from the national policy of reserving beds of navigable water bodies for future states. The decision of the Court of Appeals is in error and it conflicts with Shively v. Bowlby, *supra*, and United States v. Holt State Bank, *supra*.

3. By ordinance approved on the 13th day of October, 1973, the Crow Tribal Council prohibited fishing by all non members of the Crow Tribe at any place within the exterior boundaries of the Crow Indian Reservation. The facts of the case disclose that 43.9% of persons residing within the exterior boundaries of the Crow Indian Reservation were non Crow Indians; that 31.1% of all of the land located within the Crow Indian Reservation is owned by non indians; that prior to the construction of Yellowtail Dam, the area of the Big Horn River

involved in this case, was not inhabited with brown and rainbow trout but that subsequent to said construction, the Montana Fish & Game Commission did stock the same with brown and rainbow trout. These facts should make it clear that what is involved has nothing to do with a source of food for the Crow Tribe of Indians. What is involved is the right to engage in a recreational activity, namely, trout fishing. It has been held that a state or political subdivision is prohibited by the Fourteenth Amendment from practicing racial discrimination in the operation of recreational facilities. St. Petersburg v. Alsup, 238 F.2d 830, cert. denied, 353 U.S. 922.

The Indian Civil Rights Act, 22 Stat. 77, imposed upon Indian Tribal governments limitations upon their powers, similar, if not identical, to the limitations imposed upon the states by the Fourteenth Amendment. The lower courts have held that the legislative history clearly indicates an intention to apply the Indian Civil Rights Act to all persons, whether indian or not, within the jurisdiction of the tribal government. Dodge v. Nakai, 298 F.Supp. 17, 298 F.Supp. 26; Dry Creek Lodge, Inc. v. United States, 515 F.2d 926, (10th Cir. 1975).

The ordinance in question is discriminatory upon the basis of race and is therefore invalid as an act which is prohibited by the Indian Civil Rights Act. The Court of Appeals held that the Court had rejected similar arguments in the case of Morton v. Mancari, 417 U.S. 35 (1974) and that the ordinance was therefore valid. The Court of Appeals is wrong. The issue involved in Mancari was whether or not an act of Congress granting unto indians a preference in connection with employment within the Bureau of Indian Affairs violated the Fifth Amendment. The legal effect of legislative enactment by the governing body of an Indian Tribe was not in question.

The Court has never been called upon to construe the Indian Civil Rights Act. The limitations imposed upon the governing body of Indian Tribes by the Indian Civil Rights Act is of national importance in that most indian reservations,

as the facts show in this case, are no longer closed areas where only indians reside. In fact, on some reservations the enrolled members of the tribe are in the minority.

4. The Court of Appeals held that the petitioner, as a licensee of the State of Montana, the owner of the lands from which he was fishing, had a right of access to the waters of the Big Horn River, but the right of access did not include a protective right to fish in the river and that whatever the right of the State and its licensees was, it was subordinate to the regulatory power of the Crow Tribe of Indians. The decision of the Court of Appeals is wrong because it failed to consider the fact that the owner of the land in question is a sovereign state of the United States, that the game fish in the river were stocked by the State of Montana and that Congress expressly opened the reservation to non indians by the passage of the Crow Allotment Act, Act of June 4, 1920, 41 Stat. 751 and the Act of June 4, 1953, 67 Stat. 42.

CONCLUSION

The petition for writ of certiorari should be granted.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX A
**UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT**

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"><div style="width: 45%;">UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, vs. JAMES JUNIOR FINCH,</div><div style="width: 45%; text-align: right;"><i>Plaintiff-Appellant,</i> <i>Defendant-Appellee.</i></div></div>	}	No. 75-2149 OPINION
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[December 22, 1976]

Appeal from the United States District Court
for the District of Montana

Before: CHAMBERS and KENNEDY, Circuit Judges,
and WONG,* District Judge.

KENNEDY, Circuit Judge:

This case began when James Junior Finch stood on a bank of the Big Horn River and cast a fishing lure into the waters. He was charged by information with trespassing on Indian lands, a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1165. The bank and the bed of the Big Horn River at the point where Finch stood lie within the exterior boundaries of the Crow Indian Reservation. All concede that the State of Montana owns the bank at that spot, having acquired the property by purchase. The state's chain of title can be traced to a Crow Indian who acquired the land by allotment.

Finch held a fishing license issued by the Montana State Fish and Game Commission. However, he was not a member of the Crow Tribe, and he was well aware of an ordinance promulgated by the tribe that forbade all persons who were not tribal members from entering Crow lands for fishing. The district court found that no entry had been made on Indian land and dis-

*Honorable Dick Yin Wong, United States District Judge for the District of Hawaii, sitting by designation.

missed the information. 395 F. Supp. 205 (D. Mont. 1975). The Government appeals.¹

The court below originally denied a motion by the defendant to dismiss the information. The Government and the defendant stipulated to an "Agreed Statement of Facts" and submitted the case for the court's determination. The trial court thereupon reconsidered its earlier ruling and entered an order dismissing the information. Finch asserts that submitting the stipulation of facts to the court put him once in jeopardy, and that we do not have jurisdiction over the Government's appeal because a reversal would place him in jeopardy a second time. We address this jurisdictional issue before reaching the merits.

I

Our jurisdiction of the appeal by the Government is controlled by 18 U.S.C. § 3731. That statute authorizes appeals by the Government from all district court orders dismissing an indictment or information, except where the appeal would be barred by the double jeopardy clause of the Constitution. The Supreme Court recently gave careful consideration to this statute and concluded that its enactment expresses a congressional intent to "avoid creating noneconstitutional bars to the Government's right to appeal." *United States v. Wilson*, 420 U.S. 332, 339 (1975). Our jurisdictional inquiry, therefore, must focus on whether the appeal is barred by the constitutional rule against double jeopardy. *United States v. Patrick*, 532 F.2d 142 (9th Cir. 1976).

The threshold question is whether the defendant was once placed in jeopardy by the proceedings below. There are no mechanical rules for deciding whether jeopardy has attached. As the Supreme Court has declared, the phrase is used to mark that "point in the criminal proceedings at which the constitutional purpose and policies" of the double jeopardy clause become implicated. *Serfass v. United States*, 420 U.S. 377, 388 (1975), citing *United States v. Jorn*, 400 U.S. 470, 480 (1971). In this case, we believe that jeopardy attached in the proceedings below.

¹While this controversy is between the United States and appellee Finch, the Crow Tribe and the State of Montana have each filed briefs as *amici curiae*.

Appellee's initial motion to dismiss was denied. The parties then filed an "Agreed Statement of Facts."² The stipulation was a submission of the case to the district court for plenary determination and decision. This stipulation constituted a waiver of a jury trial; after it was filed, the district court undoubtedly had the power to determine the guilt or innocence of the defendant. The agreed statement of facts, moreover, was relevant to the district court's ultimate decision to dismiss the information. In the trial court's opinion announcing that it had reconsidered the earlier motion to dismiss, the court expressly stated: "After a thorough review of the file, I am compelled to reconsider my order" 395 F. Supp. at 207.

In at least two essential respects, this case differs from *Serfass v. United States*, *supra*, in which the Supreme Court held that jeopardy had not attached. In *Serfass*, the petitioner had not waived his right to trial by jury (in fact, he had requested a jury trial), and the district court had no power to determine the petitioner's guilt or innocence. By contrast, the defendant here waived his right to a jury trial, and after the initial denial of his motion to dismiss, was subject to the risk of a determination of guilt.

This case is also distinguishable from *United States v. Choate*, 527 F.2d 748 (9th Cir. 1975), *cert. denied*, 96 S. Ct. 2167 (1976). In that case, defendant waived a trial by jury, and the court received two stipulations of fact. Thereafter, the lower court granted the defendant's pretrial motion to dismiss on the ground that government agents had acted improperly. The Government appealed the dismissal, and the defendant argued that the waiver of the jury trial, coupled with receipt of the stipulations of fact, placed him in jeopardy. We held that jeopardy had not attached. We reasoned that the factual stipulations received by the district court were not considered in its ruling on defendant's pretrial motion, and that the parties clearly understood that the lodging of the stipulations had not put appellee in jeopardy. 527 F.2d at 751. In essence, the district

²The statement ended with the following paragraph:

It is . . . agreed that this matter is hereby submitted to the court for its decision without further proof unless the court should desire proof on any point or points not covered herein to the satisfaction of the Court.

court in *Choate* had no power to find the defendant guilty until it first ruled upon the pretrial motion, and thus the defendant was not subject to the risk of a determination of guilt. *Choate* thus differs from this case in at least two respects: the parties in *Choate* had no expectation that the stipulations of fact would place the defendant in jeopardy; second, the trial court's ruling on the motion to dismiss in *Choate* was entirely unrelated to the factual stipulations. In light of the foregoing discussion, we conclude that in this case jeopardy attached at the time the case was submitted to the district court for decision.³ Cf. *United States v. Patrick*, *supra*.

This finding, however, does not necessarily preclude appellate jurisdiction, for "the conclusion that jeopardy has attached begins, rather than ends, the inquiry as to whether the Double Jeopardy Clause bars retrial." *Illinois v. Sommerville*, 410 U.S. 458, 467 (1973); *quoted in Serfass v. United States*, 420 U.S. at 390; *United States v. Patrick*, 532 F.2d at 146; *see, e.g., United States v. Wilson*, 420 U.S. 332 (1975); *United States v. Kehoe*, 516 F.2d 78 (5th Cir. 1975), *cert. denied*, 424 U.S. 909 (1976). Accordingly, the next step is to determine the effect of the procedures that would take place on remand were the reviewing court to decide the merits of the appeal adversely to the defendant. Where these procedures are such that an individual who has once been placed in jeopardy will be put in jeopardy again, appellate jurisdiction is absent.

We are guided in our analysis by two recent decisions of the Supreme Court, *United States v. Wilson*, *supra*, and *United States v. Jenkins*, 420 U.S. 358 (1975). In *Wilson* the trial court granted the defendant's motion to dismiss the indictment after the jury found him guilty. The Government appealed, and the defendant claimed that the Court lacked jurisdiction because reversal would result in double jeopardy. The Supreme Court held that further jeopardy would not result from a reversal, and thus established its jurisdiction to reach the substantive issues

³We emphasize that our ultimate conclusion on the jurisdictional question is unchanged even if we assume that, by dismissing the information, the trial court was declining to proceed under the stipulation. In that event, jeopardy would not have attached at all.

on appeal. The Court noted that the policies of the double jeopardy clause prevent the Government from getting a second chance to present its case to the trier of fact, perhaps using the experience gained during the first proceeding to obtain a conviction. 420 U.S. at 352. It followed that such policy considerations were not present where determination of the disputed legal issue would not result in a retrial, but would merely reinstate the jury verdict. *Id.* at 353.

In *Jenkins* the Court considered a somewhat similar issue, presented, however, in the context of a trial to the court without a jury. At the close of the case, the district court filed findings of fact and conclusions of law, and ordered the indictment dismissed and the defendant discharged. The Supreme Court noted that in considering the double jeopardy problem, a bench trial differs from a jury trial in certain respects:

In a case tried to a jury, the distinction between the jury's verdict of guilty and the court's ruling on questions of law is easily perceived. In a bench trial, both functions are combined in the judge, and a general finding of "not guilty" may rest either on the determination of facts in favor of a defendant or on the resolution of a legal question favorably to him. If the court prepares special findings of fact . . . it may be possible upon sifting those findings to determine that the court's finding of "not guilty" is attributable to an erroneous conception of the law whereas the court has resolved against the defendant all of the factual issues necessary to support a finding of guilt under the correct legal standard.

420 U.S. at 366-67. The Court pointed out, however, that this could not be done in the case before it:

[It is not] clear to us that the District Court, in its findings of fact and conclusions of law, expressly or even impliedly found against respondent on all the issues necessary to establish guilt under even the Government's formulation of the applicable law. The court's opinion certainly contains no general finding of guilt, and although the specific findings resolved against respondent many of the component elements of the offense, there is no finding on the statutory element of "knowledge."

420 U.S. at 367. Distinguishing *Wilson*, the Court in *Jenkins* found that it could not simply "reinstate the general finding of guilt: there was no such finding, in form or substance, to reinstate." *Id.* at 368. The Court thus held that the appeal had been properly dismissed.

In light of the foregoing discussion, we find that the question in the instant case should be stated as follows: Once jeopardy has attached, and the proceedings are resolved in favor of the defendant, and the Government then appeals, will any proceedings after appeal require a determination of further factual issues before convicting or acquitting the defendant? If the answer is affirmative, because at the first trial sufficient facts were not established to satisfy all essential legal elements for a conviction, then the appeal is barred by the double jeopardy clause. While there may be some exceptions to this proposition, we discern none in the case before us.

In our case, unlike *Jenkins*, it is relatively easy to separate the district judge's resolution of fact from his determination of law. Since the case was submitted on a written stipulation of facts, the district court was not required to hold further proceedings before entry of judgment.⁴ Nevertheless, it elected to dismiss the information solely on a point of law. In this respect the case much more closely resembles *Wilson* than *Jenkins*, even though *Wilson* involved a jury trial and this case involved a bench trial. Here, as in *Wilson*, it is easy to separate factual

⁴The existence of an express written stipulation distinguishes this case from *United States v. Patrick*, 532 F.2d 142 (9th Cir. 1976). In that case, we found that a reversal of a judgment of acquittal would place the defendant twice in jeopardy. We noted that although there were no disputed factual issues, the defendant below had not entered into an express stipulation of facts. 532 F.2d at 147. Without such a stipulation, the trial court had no power to find the defendant guilty; if the judgment of acquittal had been reversed, a remand to the district court would have required further proceedings devoted to resolution of essential factual issues. By contrast, appellee in this case did enter into an express stipulation of facts upon which the district court would be required to make a determination of guilt if all of the defendant's legal arguments were resolved against him. The *Patrick* opinion implies that had such a stipulation of fact existed in that case, a remand to the district court would not have put defendant in jeopardy a second time. The case therefore supports our conclusion that a remand in this case will not place appellee twice in jeopardy.

resolutions from determinations of law. No additional facts must be found to determine whether the stipulation supports the conviction of the defendant. The only determination to be made is a legal one. Accordingly, we reach the merits of this appeal.

II

The statute under which appellee was charged prohibits entry without lawful authority or permission for the purpose of hunting, trapping, or fishing "upon any land that belongs to any Indian or an Indian tribe, band, or group and either are held by the United States in trust or are subject to a restriction against alienation imposed by the United States, or upon any lands of the United States that are reserved for Indian use" 18 U.S.C. § 1165. The prosecution contends that Finch made an unauthorized entry on the riverbed by casting his lure in the water. Therefore, to resolve the issue of guilt in this case, we must first determine whether the bed of the Big Horn River within the exterior boundaries of the Crow Reservation is Indian land within the statutory definition.

The present Crow Indian Reservation is part of a large tract recognized as Crow lands by the Treaty of Fort Laramie of 1851, 11 Stat. 749, 2 C. KAPPLER, INDIAN AFFAIRS: LAWS AND TREATIES 594 (hereinafter cited as Kapp.). The Treaty with the Crows of 1868, 15 Stat. 649, 2 Kapp. 1008, carved out from the 1851 territory a reservation of some 8,000,000 acres for the Crow Indians. Subsequent acts further reduced the size of the reservation.⁵ The Big Horn River is a navigable watercourse⁶ which flows through the heart of the Crow Indian Reservation from south to north.⁷ Prior to 1851, the United States owned the bed of the Big Horn River. *Cf. United States v. Southern Pacific Transportation Co.*, No. 75-1080, slip op. at 11 (9th Cir. September 10, 1976). The United States either transferred beneficial ownership of the bed to the Crow Tribe by the treaties of 1851

⁵22 Stat. 42 (1882); 26 Stat. 989 (1891); 33 Stat. 352 (1904); 50 Stat. 884 (1937).

⁶The parties have stipulated that the Big Horn River is now a navigable waterway.

⁷See the maps reproduced following the opinion of the district court. 395 F. Supp. at 215-20.

and 1868 or retained ownership of the bed as public lands, which passed to the State of Montana upon the admission to the Union.⁸ Our disposition of this case depends on which alternative the Government followed when it signed the treaties. Our examination is controlled by the opinions of the Supreme Court in two cases ruling on title to lands underlying navigable waters situated in Indian territory: *United States v. Holt State Bank*, 270 U.S. 49 (1926) and *Choctaw Nation v. Oklahoma*, 397 U.S. 620 (1969). Correct application of these precedents is a delicate matter, as the two cases seem to fall on either side of the present controversy.

It was early determined, before the *Holt* and *Choctaw* cases arose, that a disposition by the United States of public lands bordering on navigable waters, as a general rule, does not convey title or dominion to the lands situated below high water mark. *Shively v. Bowlby*, 152 U.S. 1 (1893).⁹ In *Shively* the United States had granted land adjacent to the Columbia River to a private party pursuant to the Oregon Donation Act, 9 Stat. 946. The Supreme Court held that absent the clearest expression of intent to the contrary, it would not presume that the United States intended to divest itself of part of the riverbed. The Court stated:

The United States, while they hold the country as a Territory, having all the powers both of national and of municipal government, may grant, for appropriate purposes, titles or rights in the soil below high water mark of tide waters. But they have never done so by general laws; and, unless in some case of international duty or public exigency, have acted upon the policy, as most in accordance with the interest of the people and with the object for which the Territories were acquired, of leaving the administration and disposition of the sovereign rights in navigable waters, and in the soil under them, to the control of the States, respectively, when organized and admitted to the Union.

152 U.S. at 58. This principle of construction, applied in *Shively* to a grant to an individual owner, was subsequently invoked by

⁸*Choctaw Nation v. Oklahoma*, 397 U.S. 620, 627-28 (1969).

⁹Our discussion assumes that the Big Horn River was navigable in 1851 and 1868. Our treaty interpretation would follow *a fortiori* if the river was not navigable when the treaties of 1851 and 1868 were signed.

the Supreme Court in a case concerning a transfer of land to Indian tribes, *United States v. Holt State Bank*, *supra*.

In *Holt State Bank* the dispute concerned ownership of the bed of Mud Lake, which lay wholly within the exterior boundaries of the Red Lake Reservation in the State of Minnesota. The Government, by treaties enacted before Minnesota was admitted to the Union, had recognized the right of the Chippewa Indians to occupy the reservation. The last relevant treaties preceding Minnesota statehood were concluded September 30, 1854, 10 Stat. 1109, 2 Kapp. 648, and February 22, 1855, 10 Stat. 1165, 2 Kapp. 685. At the time the treaties were signed, Mud Lake was a navigable body of water.

The Court found nothing in the language of the treaties or the background of the treaty negotiations to show an expressed intent by the United States to dispose of the lands underlying Mud Lake. Both the treaty of 1854 and the treaty of 1855 provided for the cession by the Chippewas to the United States of their claimed aboriginal right to occupy certain lands.¹⁰ In return for that cession, the Government recognized that the Chippewas had rights in the land comprising the Red Lake Reservation. By the treaty of 1854 the United States did state that certain tracts of land were to be "set apart and withheld from sale, for the use of the Chippewas," Art. 2, 2 Kapp. 648; and the treaty of 1855 provided that a sufficient quantity of land "be reserved and set apart . . . for the permanent home of the said Indians" within designated locations. Art. 2, 2 Kapp. 685, 686. However, no express provisions guaranteeing to the Indians exclusive possession of the tracts were set out in either treaty, nor were any assurances given by the United States that the lands would never be put to any other use. The Supreme Court characterized the effect of the treaties as follows:

There was no formal setting apart of what was not ceded, nor any affirmative declaration of the rights of the Indians therein The effect of what was done was to reserve in a general way for the continued occupation of the Indians what remained of their aboriginal territory

¹⁰Treaty with the Chippewa, 1854, Art. 1, 2 Kapp. 648; Treaty with the Chippewa, 1855, Art. 1, 2 Kapp. 685.

270 U.S. at 58. Following the rule announced in the *Shively* case, the Court held that title and dominion of the lake bed remained vested in the national government and that ownership of the bed passed to the State of Minnesota on its admission to the Union.

In *Choctaw Nation v. Oklahoma*, *supra*, the second principal authority to be considered on this question, the Supreme Court, after examining treaty grants made under different circumstances, reached a different conclusion as to the ownership of lands underlying navigable waters. The Court was presented with the issue whether treaty grants from the United States to the Cherokee and Choctaw Indians conveyed title to parts of the Arkansas River. A series of treaties had provided for the relocation of the Choctaw and Cherokee tribes, but so great was the force of our westward expansion that part of the lands set aside for these Indians had already been settled before the Indians could be relocated. Attempts at further voluntary removal failed, and the national government, as well as the states of Georgia and Mississippi, started to exert pressure on the Indians. The Supreme Court described what followed:

Thus faced with the prospect of losing both their lands and way of life, the Choctaws agreed in 1830 to leave Mississippi and to move to new lands west of the Arkansas territory. As a guarantee that they would not again be forced to move, the United States promised to convey the land to the Choctaw Nation in fee simple "to inure to them while they shall exist as a nation and live on it."

397 U.S. at 625. Similar promises were made to the Cherokees. *Id.* at 626. The Court concluded that this background, together with the rule of construction that well-founded doubts should be resolved in favor of the Indian tribes, were sufficient to overcome the presumption that the United States retained ownership of the riverbed. Accordingly, it found the *Holt State Bank* case inapplicable and held that the bed of the Arkansas River, at the disputed locations, was owned by the Indian tribes.

Turning to the case before us, we first examine the negotiations and background of the two relevant treaties with the Crows. These are the Treaty of Laramie of 1851, *supra*, and the Treaty with the Crows of 1868, *supra*. The history and negotiation of

the treaties were considered in detail by the Court of Claims in *Crow Tribe of Indians v. United States*, 284 F.2d 361 (Ct. Cl. 1960); *Crow Nation v. United States*, 81 Ct. Cl. 238 (1935); and *Fort Berthold Indians v. United States*, 71 Ct. Cl. 308 (1930). In brief, the negotiations for the Treaty of Fort Laramie of 1851 were precipitated by the increasing number of settlers who were crossing Indian lands on the westward journey to California, commencing in 1849 and 1850. The travelers freely used Indians lands for hunting buffalo and other game, and consumed timber and forage in increasing quantities. The Indians resented, and in some cases violently resisted, these incursions. Internecine warfare between different tribes over unsettled and ill-defined boundaries compounded the danger. The United States began negotiations with the Indians to stop these hostilities.

The Treaty of Fort Laramie of 1851 was concluded between the United States and eight Indian nations, including the Crows. On their face, the terms of the Treaty of Fort Laramie of 1851 do not constitute a clear and unambiguous grant of lands from the federal government to the Indian tribes. Article 5 of the treaty is cast as a covenant among the tribes alone to recognize specified boundaries for their respective territories, and from this clause, the United States would not appear to be a party to the recognition of Indian boundaries. 2 Kapp. 594.

Other provisions of the treaty lend support to a contrary reading. For example, in Article 3 the United States undertook to protect the Indians "against the commission of depredations by the people of the said United States," after the ratification of the treaty. *Id.* By Article 2, the Indians conceded to the United States the right "to establish roads, military and other posts, within their respective territories." *Id.* The treaty also provides for monetary compensation for the concessions by the tribes, as well as for damage to the Indian nations both past and future. Art. 7, *id.* at 595. By negative inference, these terms are susceptible to the interpretation that the Government of the United States recognized the Indian lands as belonging to the tribes. But they fall far short of constituting an express grant of all lands, including the beds of navigable streams, contained within the territorial boundaries.

Of more help to the appellant's position are the assurances that were given to the Indians by the Government during the

negotiations preceding the 1851 treaty. The territories at issue were referred to as "your country" and "your land" and "your territory."¹¹ Similar references are contained in internal governmental communications.¹² It is principally in light of this background that the Court of Claims reached the conclusion that the United States, by the Treaty of Fort Laramie of 1851, recognized the title of the Crow Tribe to the lands described as theirs in Article 5 of the treaty. *Crow Tribe of Indians v. United States*, *supra*, at 371.

We need not, however, resolve this case solely by reference to the Treaty of Fort Laramie of 1851. *Choctaw Nation*, *supra*, directs us to interpret the terms of an Indian treaty in light of its history and the negotiations preceding it and to construe doubtful language in favor of the Indians. The second relevant treaty, the Treaty with the Crows of 1868, when interpreted in light of its negotiations and the earlier treaty, convinces us that the national government, in 1868, did cede exclusive rights to the reservation lands. This cession, moreover, included rights in the riverbed.

Some fifteen years after the treaty of 1851, the Crow Tribe was approached anew by the Government. The purpose of the Government in the ensuing negotiations with the Crows was similar to that in its earlier negotiations with the Choctaw and Cherokee tribes: to reduce the size of the territory earlier designated as belonging to the tribe. During the negotiation of this second treaty, the Government, now acting through the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, again used language indicating that the

¹¹See *Crow Tribe of Indians v. United States*, 284 F.2d 361, 366-67 (Ct. Cl. 1960), quoting from an address by Treaty Commissioner Mitchell at the initial Council with the assembled representatives of the eight Indian Nations, held on September 8, 1851, reported in the *St. Louis Republican*, Oct. 26, 1851.

¹²See letter from Commissioner of Indian Affairs, W. Medill, to the Secretary of the Interior, June 15, 1849, quoted in *Crow Tribe of Indians v. United States*, 284 F.2d 361, 365 (Ct. Cl. 1960); 1849 Report to Secretary of the Interior from Commissioner of Indian Affairs, quoted in *Crow Tribe of Indians*, *supra*, at 366; cf. Letter from Commission of Indian Affairs to Treaty Commissioner Mitchell, May 26, 1851, S. Doc. No. 53, 70th Cong., 1st Sess. (1851), 4 Kapp. 1074-75, quoted in *Crow Tribe of Indians*, *supra*, at 366.

Crows were to own the territory covered by the treaty.¹³ Furthermore, the terms of the 1868 treaty themselves evidence an intent on the part of the United States to recognize that the Crow Indians were to have beneficial ownership of all lands within the exterior boundaries of the reservation. The national government explicitly agreed that such lands would be "set apart for the absolute and undisturbed use and occupation of the Indians herein named, and for such other friendly tribes or individual Indians as from time to time they may be willing, with the consent of the United States, to admit amongst them" Art. 2, 15 Stat. 649, 2 Kapp. 1008. The treaty continues:

¹³*Id.* at 367 n.3. The briefs filed by the United States and the Crow Tribe in *Crow Nation v. United States*, 81 Ct. Cl. 238 (1935), quote from the address of Commissioner Taylor to the representatives of the Crow Tribe at the beginning of the negotiations of the Treaty of 1868 at Fort Laramie on November 12, 1867, set out in the record of that case. 671 Printed Records of the Court of Claims 921-22, 1343. Commissioner Taylor said to the Crows, in part:

My friends, chiefs, headmen, and warriors of the Crow Nation:
 * * * At our invitation you have come a long way, through much difficulty, to meet us. * * * Your Great Father at Washington, though so far away from you, is well informed of your friendship toward us. * * * He knows also, of some of the troubles and difficulties that surround you. He has sent us to see you in order that he may learn more fully, from your own lips, your true situation, and that he may take all necessary steps to remove those difficulties and to make your way smooth for the future. We learn that valuable mines have been discovered in your country, which, in some instances, are taken possession of by the white people. We learn that roads are laid out and traveled through your lands; that settlements have been made upon your lands; that your game is being driven away and is fast disappearing. We know, also, that the white people are rapidly increasing and are taking possession of and occupying all the valuable lands.

Under these circumstances we are sent by the Great Father and the great council at Washington to arrange some plan to relieve you, as far as possible, from the bad consequences of this state of things and to protect you from future difficulties. We desire to set apart a tract of your country as a home for yourselves and children forever, upon which your Great Father will not permit the white man to trespass. We wish you to mark out a section of country that will suit you for this purpose. When that is set apart, we desire to buy of you the right to use and settle the rest, leaving to you, however, the right to hunt upon it all as long as the game lasts.

Id. at 921-22.

[T]he United States now solemnly agrees that no person, except those herein designated and authorized so to do, and except such officers, agents, and employes of the Government as may be authorized to enter upon Indian reservations in discharge of duties enjoined by law, shall ever be permitted to pass over, settle upon, or reside in the territory described in this article for the use of said Indians

*Id.*¹⁴

Both the assurances given to the Indians during the negotiation of the treaty of 1868, considered against the background of the treaty of 1851, and the explicit language of the 1868 treaty could have had no other meaning in the minds of the Indians than that the Government recognized that all the lands within the metes and bounds of the reservation were to be theirs. We thus conclude that the United States, by signing the treaty of 1868 with the Crows, intended to grant them dominion and control over that portion of the bed of the Big Horn River situated within the reservation,¹⁵ subject to the retained power of the United States to exercise its paramount right to control navigation on the river.

It is true that the Treaty with the Crows of 1868 does not contemplate, by its express terms, that a patent will issue to convey the land to the Indian nation, nor does it contain an explicit promise that no part of the land granted shall be embraced in any territory or state, as did the treaties with the Choctaws and the Cherokees considered in *Choctaw Nation*. But the absence of similar provisions in the treaty with the Crows is not determinative. It is quite clear, in light of the foregoing,

¹⁴By Article 11 of the treaty, the United States undertook that "[n]o treaty for the cession of any portion of the reservation [therein] described, which may be held in common, [would] be of any force or validity as against the said Indians unless executed and signed by, at least, a majority of all the adult male Indians occupying or interested in the same" 2 Kapp. at 1011. Such language also assumes that the United States recognized the extensive ownership rights of the Crow Tribe in the reservation lands.

¹⁵In *Montana Power Co. v. Rochester*, 127 F.2d 189 (9th Cir. 1942), this court reached a similar result in construing the Treaty of July 16, 1855, 12 Stat. 975, 2 Kapp. 722, negotiated with the Confederated Tribes of the Flathead, Kootenai, and Upper Pend d'Oreilles Indians.

that in establishing the Crow Reservation, the United States intended that all lands therein, including the riverbed, were to be for the exclusive use of the tribe.

Appellee has referred us to authorities in this circuit which, when deciding in doubtful cases whether the United States intended to convey lands underlying navigable waters to Indian tribes, inquire whether the livelihood of the Indians centered around fishing.¹⁶ He argues that since there is no evidence that the Crow Indians used the river as a source of food, the Government could not have intended to grant the riverbed to the Crow Tribe. Appellee misapprehends the purpose of Congress in creating the Crow Reservation. By establishing a reservation as a "permanent home" for the Crow Indians, *see* Treaty with the Crows of 1868, Art. 4, 2 Kapp. 1008, 1009, the Government manifestly intended to set aside lands which would provide the tribe with the food and natural resources upon which their livelihood depended. It is true that the Crow Indians, in 1868, were predominantly hunters.¹⁷ The aim of the United States, however, was to fix the Crows in one location and to reorient their way of life toward "agricultural and other pursuits."¹⁸ We find it inconceivable that the United States intended to withhold from the Indians the right to sustain themselves from any source of

¹⁶*E.g.*, *Skokomish Indian Tribe v. France*, 320 F.2d 205 (9th Cir. 1963); *Moore v. United States*, 157 F.2d 760 (9th Cir. 1946). *See also* *Alaska Pacific Fisheries v. United States*, 248 U.S. 78 (1918).

¹⁷Published histories of the Crow Tribe indicate that the Crow Indians engaged principally in the hunting of large game such as elk and buffalo. Fishing was neither a primary nor an important source of food or industry. In his definitive study of the Crow Tribe, R. Lowie states:

A Crow was not happy without a diet of the flesh of ruminants. Boys went out shooting rabbits for fun, but that would be starvation fare for adults. I have never met a reference to eating of fish; berries, and roots dug up by the women formed a regular part of the ancient bill of fare but only as seasoning or dessert; and the corn traded in from the Hidatsa was eaten for the sake of variety rather than as a substitute for meat.

R. LOWIE, *THE CROW INDIANS* 72 (1938).

¹⁸*See* Letter from C. E. Mix, Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs, to W. J. Cullen, Special Agent for Montana, April 30, 1868, informing Cullen of his appointment by the President as a Treaty Commissioner and instructing him of his duties, *quoted in part*, *Crow Nation v. United States*, 81 Ct. Cl. 238, 250 (1935).

food which might be available on their reservation. It must have been no mystery to the Government that the Crow Tribe, whose nomadic ways they sought to change, might eventually be forced to derive their existence from a source other than big game, should the large herds of buffalo and elk roaming the plains become extinct by accident of nature or decimation by man. *Cf. Menominee Tribe of Indians v. United States*, 388 F.2d 998, 1002 (Ct. Cl. 1967), *aff'd*, 391 U.S. 404 (1968). We therefore decline to adopt an interpretation which would mean that the Treaty of 1868 deprived the Crow Indians of potential control over a source of food on their reservation.¹⁹

Appellee argues that regardless of our determination as to ownership of the riverbed, he had a right to fish from the bank. Casting a fishing line and lure from a riverbank is an intrusion wholly sufficient to constitute an entry upon the riverbed. *See W. PROSSER, HANDBOOK OF THE LAW OF TORTS* § 13 at 69 (4th ed. 1971). Appellee contends, however, that as the state's licensee he was exercising a privileged riparian right of access to the river, incident to Montana's ownership of the bank, and that he was not guilty of a "trespass on Indian lands" when he entered upon the riverbed to fish. We disagree.

Before explaining the principles of riparian ownership that are controlling in this case, we note that our determination of these questions is announced as a matter of federal law. This results from the circumstances of the original grant of the riparian lands here in question. The State of Montana is, by purchase, the successor in interest of an original patentee whose grant was in fee simple from the United States. The riverbed in question originally constituted part of lands held by the United States in trust for the Crow Tribe, and it was deeded by the United States to the state's earliest predecessor in title, pursuant to the General Allotment Act of 1887, 24 Stat. 338, 25 U.S.C. §§ 331 *et seq.* When the national government holds trust ownership of a navigable stream bed and the lands littoral to it, and thereafter conveys the banks of the stream, the nature and

¹⁹It should further be noted that the cases cited above, see note 15 *supra*, where an examination of the lifestyles of the Indian tribes was considered particularly important, involved controversies over the location of the exterior boundaries of lands set aside for the Indians. In the case before us, it is clear that the part of the Big Horn River at issue is within the metes and bounds of the Crow Reservation. *Cf. Choctaw Nation v. Oklahoma*, 397 U.S. 620, 628 (1969).

extent of riparian rights conveyed by deeds to such lands must be determined as a matter of federal law. *The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes v. Namen*, 534 F.2d 1376 (9th Cir. 1976), *aff'g* 380 F. Supp. 452 (D. Mont. 1974).

In the *Namen* case this Court concluded that Congress must have intended that grants of riparian lands under the Indian Allotment Acts should carry riparian rights of access and wharfage. 534 F.2d at 1377. It is therefore clear that the State of Montana and its licensees have a right of access to the waters of the Big Horn River at the location in question. It does not follow, however, that Montana's right of access to the waters of the river includes a protected right to enter upon the riverbed for the purpose of fishing. *Cf. United States v. Pollman*, 364 F. Supp. 995, 1000 (D. Mont. 1973). In order to prevail, appellee therefore must demonstrate the existence of an independent riparian right to fish inuring to the State of Montana by virtue of its riparian ownership, and that such right is paramount to the regulatory authority exercised by the national government and the Indian tribe.

We find little guidance in the decided cases for resolving questions concerning the source or extent of a riparian right to fish in navigable waters as a matter of federal common law. The authorities that have come to our attention involve the interpretation of state or territorial law, and they are generally inconclusive on the subject. A majority of the cases contain oblique references to a riparian right to fish in navigable waters, but give no indication of the limitations on its exercise.²⁰ Those few

²⁰*See, e.g., United States v. Sexton Cove Estates*, 526 F.2d 1293, 1300 n.18 (5th Cir. 1976); *Springer v. Joseph Schlitz Brewing Co.*, 510 F.2d 468, 470 (4th Cir. 1975); *Burns v. Forbes*, 412 F.2d 995, 998 (3rd Cir. 1969); *United States v. 220.0 Acres of Land, State of Md.*, 306 F. Supp. 138, 151 (D. Md. 1969). *See also* G. THOMPSON, *REAL PROPERTY* § 274 (2d ed. 1964).

The only facet of the right which seems well established is that a riparian owner has no exclusive right to fish in navigable waters in the absence of an express grant and, as a corollary, may not prevent the public from fishing in the navigable waters contiguous to his land. *See, e.g., 2 AMERICAN LAW OF PROPERTY* § 9.49 (A. J. Casner ed. 1952); H. FARNHAM, *WATER AND WATER RIGHTS* ¶ 375 (1904); *WATERS AND WATER RIGHTS* § 36.4(A) at 198 (R. Clark ed. 1967); S. WIEL, *WATER RIGHTS IN THE WESTERN STATES* § 907 (3d ed. 1911); *Annot.*, 47 A.L.R.2d 381; 35 Am. Jur. 2d *Fish and Game* § 11; 36A C.J.S. *Fish* §§ 6, 8.

cases which discuss the dimensions of the riparian right to fish express two different views. The first group states that the right of a riparian owner to fish in navigable waters is no greater than the common right of fishing enjoyed by the general public,²¹ and from this it would follow that the riparian right to take fish is simply a right of access, from which one cannot derive an additional interest in land, a *profit à prendre* for fishery. The second view appears to recognize a riparian right to fish which is superior to the common right of fishery.²²

Despite these differences, however, the cases which address the point indicate that the riparian right to fish, whether it is a *profit à prendre* or simply the means of access to a right that is enjoyed by all, is in either event subject to close regulation by the governing authorities;²³ and we need go no further than to recognize this principle to resolve the instant case. We hold that the Government has exercised regulatory power which is superior, on the facts of this case, to any riparian right to fish held by the State of Montana or its licensees.

Appellee would deny that the United States, either alone or in conjunction with the Crow Tribe, is exercising a regulatory power in this case, and contends that the Crow Tribe Ordinance which closed Indian lands to fishing was promulgated without authority. We reject that argument.

Even assuming that the authority of the Crow Tribe to control access to its own reservation is insufficient to sustain the closure of its lands to fishing by non-Indians, *but cf.* Quechan Tribe of Indians v. Rowe, 531 F.2d 408 (9th Cir. 1976), the authority to withhold permission to enter for fishing, hunting, or trapping has been expressly conferred on the tribe by the promulgation of 18 U.S.C. § 1165, an enactment clearly within the national power. The language and the history of 18 U.S.C. § 1165 show

²¹International Shoe Co. v. Heatwole, 30 So.2d 537, 540, 126 W. Va. 888 (1944); Small v. Wallace, 129 A. 444, 445, 114 Me. 365 (1925).

²²Ross v. Mayor and Council of Borough of Edgewater, 180 A. 866, 870, 115 N.J.Law 477, *aff'd*, 184 A. 810, 116 N.J.Law 447, *cert. denied*, 299 U.S. 543 (1935).

²³C. J. Hendry Co. v. Moore, 318 U.S. 133, 135 (1943) and cases cited therein; United States v. Pollman, 364 F. Supp. 995, 1000 (D. Mont. 1973); Corsa v. Tawes, 149 F. Supp. 771, 773 (D. Md.), *aff'd per curiam*, 355 U.S. 37 (1957). See H. FARNHAM, WATER AND WATER RIGHTS ¶¶ 375, 382 (1904); S. WIEL, WATER RIGHTS IN THE WESTERN STATES § 907 (3rd ed. 1911); 36A C.J.S. Fish ¶¶ 8, 26.

that the right of Indians to control hunting, trapping and fishing on their lands is a prerogative of ownership which the United States recognizes as a matter of federal law. It was the intent of Congress that "Indian property owners should have the same protection as any other property owners" such as, for example, "a private hunting club [which] may keep nonmembers off its game lands or . . . may issue a license for a fee."²⁴ Under

²⁴H. REP. NO. 625, 86th Cong., 2d Sess. 2; S. REP. NO. 1686, 86th Cong., 2d Sess. 2. Prior to the enactment of section 1165, Indian property owners could not protect their lands against trespassing by non-Indians for the purpose of hunting, trapping, and fishing. Both the House and the Senate reports stated that "[n]on-Indians are not subject to the jurisdiction of Indian courts and cannot be tried in Indian courts on trespass charges." H. REP. NO. 625, *supra*, at 2; S. REP. NO. 1686, *supra*, at 2. (The correctness of that assumption may now be questioned in light of our recent decision in *Olipphant v. Schlie*, ____ F.2d ____ (9th Cir. Aug. 24, 1976).) Furthermore, there were no federal laws which could be invoked against trespassers. The House report notes:

There is a Federal statute making it an offense for a non-Indian to hunt or trap on lands of treaty tribes except for subsistence (25 U.S.C. 216). However, as pointed out in the report of the Secretary of the Interior, this act does not cover fishing, is limited to lands of tribes with treaties, and in effect sanctions trespass if it is "for subsistence in Indian country." To this might be added the practical fact that some U.S. attorneys hesitate to prosecute under this act which dates back to 1834, because of the difficulty of proof on the subsistence point and mainly because there is a feeling that the 1834 act was designed for the old-time professional hunter and trapper, not the weekenders or local rod-and-gun members who pose the modern problem.

H. REP. NO. 625, *supra*, at 2. The legislation was thus intended to provide sanctions for hunting, trapping, and fishing on Indian lands "without the consent in the form of a license or permit for which a fee can be charged, by the Indian or tribe concerned." H. REP. NO. 625, *supra*, at 1. See also Letter from Assistant Secretary of the Interior Ernst, to Rep. Celler, Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, February 13, 1958, which states in pertinent part:

In a great many instances, fish and game are much more plentiful on Indian reservations than on adjacent lands, and non-Indian hunters and fishermen come onto the reservations to hunt and fish. Indian tribes have the right to control or to prohibit hunting and fishing on their reservations, and to charge fees for permitting hunting and fishing. Sometimes the money derived from hunting and fishing permits represents a sizable portion of the tribal income.

H. REP. NO. 625, *supra*, at 4.

the Act, a tribe may refuse entry for fishing on its lands just as an individual Indian owner might do, and the sanctions apply in either case. The Crow Tribal Ordinance dated October 13, 1973, by which nonmembers of the tribe were prohibited from fishing within the confines of the reservation, was ample notification by the beneficial owners of the bed of the river within the reservation that consent to entry for such purposes was withheld.²⁵

Appellee finally contends that the ordinance which bans all nontribal members from fishing on the Crow Reservation denies him equal protection of the laws guaranteed to nontribal members by 25 U.S.C. § 1302(8), and is therefore void. The Supreme Court rejected similar arguments in *Morton v. Mancari*, 417 U.S. 535 (1974). See also *Moe v. The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation*, 425 U.S. 463, 480 (1976). Its explanation for sustaining the statute specially applicable to the Indians in that case is equally applicable to the tribal ordinance at issue here.

We conclude that the bed of the Big Horn River within the confines of the Crow Indian Reservation is held by the United States in trust for the Indian tribe and that appellee violated 18 U.S.C. § 1165 by willfully and knowingly fishing without lawful authority or permission of the tribe.

The order of the district court dismissing the information is accordingly reversed, and the cause is remanded for entry of judgment based on the stipulation filed in the district court by both parties to this cause.

REVERSED AND REMANDED.

²⁵That the waters of the Big Horn River are navigable is irrelevant to the question whether or not there was a prohibited entry for the purposes of fishing. We have expressly observed that there is no inherent conflict between the Government holding lands in trust exclusively for Indian fisheries and its also holding the waters over such lands in trust for the purposes of navigation. *Moore v. United States*, 157 F.2d 760 (9th Cir. 1946). It is well settled that the United States may exercise its power to protect Indian fisheries even as to waters that are subject to the public easement of navigation. *Alaska Pacific Fisheries v. United States*, 248 U.S. 78 (1918).

APPENDIX B

(Filed and Entered in Docket, April 9, 1975;

John E. Pederson, Clerk: By _____ Deputy Clerk)

In the United States District Court for the
District of Montana, Billings Division
CR-74-25-BLG

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, PLAINTIFF

— vs —

JAMES JUNIOR FINCH, DEFENDANT

MEMORANDUM OPINION AND ORDER

The information filed herein on May 16, 1974, charges:

"That on or about May 5, 1974, in the District of Montana, JAMES JUNIOR FINCH, within the exterior boundaries of the Crow Indian Reservation, did without lawful authority or permission and for the purpose of fishing thereon, unlawfully and knowingly go upon land identified as located in Section 8, Township 5 South, Range 32 East, M.P.M., Big Horn County, Montana, being a portion of the Big Horn River. The said JAMES JUNIOR FINCH was standing upon land belonging to the State of Montana for the benefit and use of its State Fish and Game Commission, while fishing in said Big Horn River, said river being Indian trust land, closed to hunting and fishing to all non-Crow citizens, all contrary to the provisions of 18 U.S.C. 1165."

On June 14, 1974, the defendant filed a motion to dismiss said information. The parties submitted extensive and well-considered memoranda of law. On September 4, 1974, an order was filed wherein I denied the motion to dismiss and noted that the information was sufficient on its face. An Agreed

(1b)

Statement of Facts and additional memoranda of law have been filed. Additionally, counsel for the Crow Tribe of Indians and the State of Montana, Department of Fish and Game, have appeared herein as amici curiae.

After a thorough review of the file, I am compelled to reconsider my order dated September 4, 1974, wherein I denied defendant's motion to dismiss. I conclude that the information is not sufficient on its face for several reasons.

First, the defendant is charged with a violation of 18 U.S.C.A. § 1165, which reads as follows:

"Whoever, without lawful authority or permission, willfully and knowingly goes upon any land that belongs to any Indian or Indian tribe, band, or group and either are held by the United States in trust or are subject to a restriction against alienation imposed by the United States, or upon any lands of the United States that are reserved for Indian use, for the purpose of hunting, trapping, or fishing thereon, or for the removal of game, peltries, or fish therefrom, shall be fined not more than \$200 or imprisoned not more than ninety days, or both, and all game, fish, and peltries in his possession shall be forfeited."

An essential element to the offense charged against the defendant herein and as defined by 18 U.S.C. § 1165 is that the defendant go upon "any land that belongs to any Indian or Indian tribe, band, or group and either are held in trust or are subject to a restriction against alienation imposed by the United States."

I have previously held that the portion of the Big Horn River bed in question is held by the United States in trust for the Crow Tribe of Indians. Order of this Court dated September 4, 1974, in the case now at issue, and United States v. Haug and Mill, D. Mont., Billings Div., Misc. Crim. No. 511 (June 9, 1971). After a further review of the pertinent treaties and the nature of the Tribe's title, I have concluded otherwise

and by this memorandum opinion and order specifically overrule my holding in these two cases.

The title of the Crow Tribe to a large area (which now includes their present-day reservation) was recognized by the Treaty of Fort Laramie, signed in 1851. 11 Stat. 749, II Kapp. 594. Article 5 of that treaty reads in pertinent part:

"The aforesaid Indian nations do hereby recognize and acknowledge the following tracts of country, included within the metes and boundaries hereinafter designated, as their respective territories, viz:

* * *

"The territory of the Crow Nation, commencing at the mouth of Powder River on the Yellowstone; thence up Powder River to its source; thence along the main range of the Black Hills and Wind River Mountains to the headwaters of the Yellowstone River; thence down the Yellowstone River to the mouth of Twenty-five Yard Creek; thence to the head waters of the Muscle-shell River; thence down the Muscle-shell River to its mouth; thence to the headwaters of Big Dry Creek, and thence to its mouth.

* * *

"It is, however, understood that, in making this recognition and acknowledgement, the aforesaid Indian nations do not hereby abandon or prejudice any rights or claims they may have to other lands; and further, that they do not surrender the privilege of hunting, fishing, or passing over any of the tracts of country heretofore described."

The Treaty of Fort Laramie, 1851, involved some eight Indian nations. The treaty's background has been thoroughly studied by the Courts and need not be exhaustively repeated here.¹ However, records reveal that

¹ See Crow Tribe of Indians v. United States, 284 F.2d 361 (1960), and Sioux Tribe v. United States, 500 F.2d 458 (1974).

" * * * the Government sought to initiate treaty negotiations, primarily to promote peace among these tribes, to protect settlers and other travelers along the Platte and Arkansas Rivers, and to help establish responsibility for any depredations that might be committed in a particular area." Sioux Tribe v. United States, 500 F.2d 458, 464 (1974).

The Treaty of Fort Laramie, 1851, did recognize the Crow Indian title to the land described therein. See Crow Tribe of Indians v. United States, 284 F.2d 361, 371 (1960).

However, a reservation was not established until the enactment of the Treaty with the Crow Indians, 1868. 15 Stat. 649. See United States v. Powers, 94 F.2d 783, 785 (1938). Under this treaty, the territory for the Crows was significantly reduced. Article II of that treaty reads as follows:

"The United States agrees that the following district of country, to wit: commencing where the 107th degree of longitude west of Greenwich crosses the south boundary of Montana Territory; thence north along said 107th meridian to the mid-channel of the Yellowstone river; thence up said mid-channel of the Yellowstone to the point where it crosses the said southern boundary of Montana, being the 45th degree of north latitude; and thence east along said parallel of latitude to the place of beginning, shall be, and the same is, set apart for the absolute and undisturbed use and occupation of the Indians herein named, and for such other friendly tribes or individual Indians as from time to time they may be willing, with the consent of the United States, to admit amongst them; and the United States now solemnly agrees that no persons, except those herein designated and authorized so to do, and except such officers, agents, and employe's of the government as may be authorized to enter upon Indian reservations in discharge of duties enjoined by law, shall ever be permitted to pass over, settle upon, or reside

in the territory described in this article for the use of said Indians, and henceforth they will, and do hereby, relinquish all title, claims, or rights in and to any portion of the territory of the United States, except such as is embraced within the limits aforesaid."

These two treaties were amended by later Acts which further reduced the size of the Reservation. See 22 Stat. 42, 26 Stat. 989, 33 Stat. 352, and 50 Stat. 884.

The Treaty of Fort Laramie was enacted in 1851, long before the passage of the Organic Act of the Territory of Montana in 1867. 14 Stat. 426.

Neither the Treaty of Fort Laramie of 1851 nor the Treaty with the Crow Indians of 1868 made specific reference as to the title of Big Horn River bed. It has been held that the Big Horn River is a navigable stream. See The Crow Tribe of Indians of Montana v. United States, D. Mont., Billings Div., Civil No. 214 (October 1, 1963). However, the general rule as to the disposal of beds of navigable streams is briefly stated in United States v. Holt State Bank, 270 U.S. 49, 55 (1926):

" * * * (T)he United States early adopted and constantly has adhered to the policy of regarding lands under navigable waters in acquired territory, while under its sole dominion, as held for the ultimate benefit of future States, and so has refrained from making any disposal thereof, save in exceptional instances when impelled to particular disposals by some international duty or public exigency. It follows from this that disposals by the United States during the territorial period are not lightly to be inferred, and should not be regarded as intended unless the intention was definitely declared or otherwise made very plain."

The question presented to the Supreme Court in the Holt State Bank case was the title to the bed of Mud Lake, which was formerly a navigable body of water within the forum Red Lake Indian Reservation. The Court concluded that title to the bed

of the lake passed to the State of Minnesota on its admission into the Union. The Supreme Court stated:

"There was no formal setting apart of what was not ceded, nor any affirmative declaration of the rights of the Indians therein, nor any attempted exclusion of others from the use of navigable waters. The effect of what was done was to reserve in a general way for the continued occupation of the Indians what remained of their aboriginal territory; and thus it came to be known and recognized as a reservation. Minnesota v. Hitchcock, 185 U.S. 373, 389. There was nothing in this which even approaches a grant of rights of lands underlying navigable waters; not anything evincing a purpose to depart from the established policy, before stated, of treating such lands as held for the benefit of the future State." 270 U.S. 49, 58-59.

This holding has not been reversed. However, the Supreme Court held in Choctaw Nation v. Oklahoma, 397 U.S. 620 (1970), that the Choctaw and Cherokee Indian Nations received title to land underlying a navigable portion of the Arkansas River. As the Court noted in Choctaw, the practical question was the ownership of minerals:

"As a practical matter, what is at stake is the ownership of the minerals beneath the river bed and of the dry land created by navigable projects that are narrowing and deepening the river channel." 397 U.S. 620, 621.

As in the case with the Crow Indians, a series of treaties was involved in the Choctaw Nation case. Unlike the Crow Indians, the Choctaw Indians were forced to leave their aboriginal lands and the United States promised to convey different land to the Choctaw nation in fee simple. Patents were issued thereunder.

"In addition, the United States pledged itself to secure to the Choctaws the 'jurisdiction and government of all the persons and property that may be within their limits

west, so that no Territory or State shall ever have a right to pass laws for the government of the Choctaw Nation . . . and that no part of the land granted to them shall ever be embraced in any Territory or State.' Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek, Sept. 27, 1830, 7 Stat. 333-334." 398 U.S. 620, 625.

No such provision explicitly provides that Crow Lands were never to be embraced within any territory or state.

From the circumstances in the Choctaw Nation case, the Court concluded:

"Together, petitioners were granted fee simple title to a vast tract of land through which the Arkansas River winds its course. The natural inference from those grants is that all the land within their metes and bounds was conveyed, including the banks and bed of rivers. To the extent that the documents speak to the question, they are consistent with and tend to confirm this natural reading." 397 U.S. 620, 634.

I conclude from the above that the treaties involved in this case most closely approximate those in the Holt State Bank case and not those in the Choctaw Nation. It follows, therefore, that the information is insufficient on its face in that the defendant is charged with going upon a portion of the Big Horn River which is not "land that belongs to any Indian or Indian tribe, band or group" and further which is not held in trust or "is subject to a restriction against any alienation imposed by the United States" — an essential element to the offense defined in 18 U.S.C. § 1165.

Even were I to hold that the United States held the portion of the Big Horn River in question in trust for the Crow Tribe of Indians (which I explicitly do not so hold), I would be compelled to dismiss the information for yet another reason. The information charges that the defendant "was standing upon land belonging to the State of Montana for the benefit and use of its State Fish and Game Commission." As an owner of

land adjacent to a navigable stream, the State of Montana has riparian rights. Following a long line of earlier cases, the Supreme Court in United States v. River Rouge Improvement Co., 269 U.S. 411, 418 (1926), stated:

"It is well settled that in the absence of a controlling local law otherwise limiting the rights of a riparian owner upon a navigable river, Shively v. Bowlby, 152 U.S. 1, 40, he (the riparian owner) has, in addition to the rights common to the public, a property right, incident to his ownership of the bank, of access from the front of his land to the navigable part of the stream, and when not forbidden by public law may construct landings, wharves or piers for this purpose." (Citations omitted, emphasis added.)

The State of Montana is not plaintiff herein and is not complaining of the defendant's use of its land to gain access to the Big Horn River for fishing purposes. In fact, the State of Montana as amicus curiae herein argues that the land was acquired for the defendant's benefit as a citizen and member of the public.

Citing United States v. Pollmann, 364 F. Supp. 995, the plaintiff argues that the casting of a fishing lure in or on that portion of the Big Horn River in question constitutes a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1165. Such an argument ignores a substantial distinction between the Pollmann case and the instant action. In Pollman, the defendant was fishing from a boat on the surface of the waters of the south half of Flathead Lake, the bed of which was (and is) held in trust for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Indian Tribes. The defendant in the instant case was fishing from property of the State of Montana. Consequently, the plaintiff fails to establish an essential element of an offense under 18 U.S.C. § 1165 — a trespass upon Indian Land.

Still another essential element of the offense charged is that the defendant go upon land for the purpose of fishing

"without lawful authority or permission." In support of this element, the plaintiff refers to a Crow Tribal Ordinance dated October 13, 1973, wherein the Tribe prohibited non-Tribal members from fishing within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation. The validity of that ordinance rests upon the sovereignty of the Crow Tribe in that regard. As Judge Smith observed in the case of United States of America v. Blackfeet Indian Reservation, Civil No. 3197, in the United States District Court for the District of Montana, Great Falls Division:

"The defendants urge that the Blackfeet Tribe is sovereign and that the jurisdiction of a tribal court flows directly from that sovereignty. No doubt the Indian tribes were at one time sovereign and even now the tribes are sometimes described as being sovereign. The blunt fact, however, is that an Indian tribe is sovereign to the extent that the United States permits it to be sovereign — neither more or less."

A review of the pertinent treaties is therefore necessary to determine the sovereignty of the Crow Tribe concerning fishing on the Reservation. The Treaty of Fort Laramie of 1851, 11 Stat. 749, provides in Article V that the Indian tribes mentioned in the treaty did not surrender their privileges of hunting and fishing by accepting the respective reservations but rather that they maintained such rights as well as the right to pass over any of the tracts of land described in the treaty for the purposes of hunting and fishing. The Treaty with the Crow Indians dated May 7, 1868, 15 Stat. 649, does not contain any reference to fishing.

The preservation of the Tribe's privilege of fishing does not grant the Tribe the exclusive right to fish. Such an exclusive right could be granted to the Tribe. See, for example, the Hellgate Treaty, 12 Stat. 975, with the Flathead, Kootenai and Upper Pend d'Oreilles Indians, Article III thereof, which reads:

"The exclusive right of taking fish in all the streams

running through or bordering said reservation is further secured to said Indians; as also the right of taking fish at all usual and accustomed places, in common with the citizens of the Territory, and of erecting temporary buildings for curing; together with the privilege of hunting, gathering roots and berries, and pasturing their horses and cattle upon open and unclaimed land." (Emphasis added.)

Certainly the Tribes under such a treaty provision have sufficient sovereignty to regulate fishing by non-Tribal members on the reservation. See United States v. Pollmann, supra.

The right of an Indian Tribe to exclude non-Tribal members from fishing in navigable water is not a novel question to the Courts. In the case of Alaska Pacific Fisheries v. United States, 248 U.S. 78 (1918), the Supreme Court noted that a reservation had been created for the Metlakahtlan Indians consisting of the Annette islands. The Court stated:

"The principal question for decision is whether the reservation created by the Act of 1891 embraces only the upland of the islands, or includes as well the adjacent waters and submerged land. The question is one of construction, — of determining what Congress intended by the words 'the body of lands known as Annette islands.' " 248 U.S. at 87.

The Court then reviewed the history of the creation of the reservation and its purposes, and the opinion contains the following statement of fact:

"The islands are in the interior of the Alexander archipelago, and separated from other islands by well-known bodies of water. Before the Metlakahtla settlement they were wild and uninhabited. While bearing a fair supply of timber, only a small portion of the upland is arable, more than three fourths consisting of mountains and rocks. Salmon and other fish in large numbers frequent and pass through the waters adjacent to the

shore, and the opportunity thus afforded for securing fish for local consumption and for salting, curing, canning, and sale gives to the islands a value for settlement and inhabitation which otherwise they would not have." 248 U.S. at 88.

Based upon these facts, the Court concluded as follows:

"The circumstances which we have recited shed much light on what Congress intended by 'the body of lands known as Annette islands.' The Indians could not sustain themselves from the use of the upland alone. The use of the adjacent fishing grounds was equally essential. Without this the colony could not prosper in that location. The Indians naturally looked on the fishing grounds as part of the islands and proceeded on that theory in soliciting the reservation. They had done much for themselves and were striving to do more. Evidently Congress intended to conform its action to their situation and needs. It did not reserve merely the site of their village, or the island on which they were dwelling, but the whole of what is known as Annette islands, and referred to it as a single body of lands. This, as we think, shows that the geographical name was used, as is sometimes done, in a sense embracing the intervening and surrounding waters as well as the upland, — in other words, as descriptive of the area comprising the islands." 248 U.S. at 89.

In view of the Court's determination that Congress intended the surrounding waters to be included within the Annette islands, the Court rules that the plaintiff could not have its salmon trap located in the navigable water because it was within the boundaries of the reservation. Again in considering the Alaskan Pacific Fisheries case, I note that the Indians in question were fishermen and that the lands given to them for their reservation had value only for fishing purposes. The rule was stated in the case of Tlingit and Haida Indians of

Alaska v. United States, 389 F.2d 778 (1968), as follows:

"An Indian tribe might exclude non-Indians from fishing in navigable waterways which are within its reservation if the grant of the reservation includes, as a part of that grant, the right to fish in designated areas free from interference. (Citations omitted.) this is based on the implied or explicit grant of a right to fish undisturbed in accustomed aboriginal places." 389 U.S. at 785.

In the instant case, plaintiff has failed to show that the Crows were fishermen or that they historically derived their food supply from fishing. Nor does the 1868 Treaty contain any reference to fishing. The Court is well aware of the maxims to be applied in the interpretation of treaties with Indian tribes.² However, when the treaties do not expressly create an exclusive right to fish and when the treaties cannot reasonably be construed by implication to create such a right, it is beyond the power of the Court, even when applying such maxims, to create such a right. None simply exists. As noted by Judge Jameson in the case of Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, et al. v. Namen, et al., Civil No. 2343, U.S.D.C., District of Montana, Missoula Division:

"In the complex, and sometimes uncertain area of Indian law, care must be exercised in attempting to apply language used in one factual situation to a totally different context."

The Court therefore concludes that the Crow Tribal Ordinance dated October 13, 1973, is invalid insofar as it attempts to

²Treaties with the Indians must be interpreted as the Indians would have understood them. Choctaw Nation v. Oklahoma, 397 U.S. 620, 631 (1970); United States v. Shoshone Tribe, 304 U.S. 111, 116 (1938). Doubtful expressions are to be resolved in favor of the Indian parties to the Treaty. McClanahan v. State Tax Commission of Arizona, 411 U.S. 164, 175 (1973); Carpenter v. Shaw, 280 U.S. 363, 367 (1930). Indian treaties are to be construed in favor of the Indians. Choctaw Nation of Indians v. United States, 318 U.S. 423, 431-32 (1943).

prohibit fishing on non-Indian land located within the exterior boundaries of the reservation.³

For the reason that the bed of the Big Horn River is not held by the United States in trust for the Crow Tribe of Indians, and for the reason that even if said river bed were held in trust for the Crow Indians the defendant is not charged with going upon said bed, and for the reason that the Crow Indians lack sufficient sovereignty to prohibit fishing from non-Indian land located within the exterior boundaries of the reservation, the Court concludes that the information on file herein does not state an offense against the United States.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that said information be dismissed.

Done and dated this 9th day of April, 1975.

James F. Battin
United States District Judge

³None of the parties herein, nor any of the amici curiae who have appeared herein, attack the constitutionality of 18 U.S.C. § 1165. In fact, there can be little doubt that said statute is valid.

Supreme Court, U. S.
FILED

MAY 2 1977

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No. 76-1206

In the Supreme Court of the United States

OCTOBER TERM, 1976

JAMES JUNIOR FINCH, PETITIONER

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**ON PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO
THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR
THE NINTH CIRCUIT**

**BRIEF FOR THE UNITED STATES
IN OPPOSITION**

WADE H. MCCREE, JR.,
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OPINIONS BELOW

The opinion of the court of appeals (Pet. App. A) is reported at 548 F. 2d 822. The opinion of the district court (Pet. App. B) is reported at 395 F. Supp. 205.

JURISDICTION

The judgment of the court of appeals was entered on December 22, 1976. A petition for rehearing was denied on February 1, 1977. The petition for a writ of certiorari was filed on March 2, 1977. The jurisdiction of this Court is invoked under 28 U.S.C. 1254(1).

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the Double Jeopardy Clause bars an appeal by the prosecution where, after reversal on appeal,

the case may be remanded for the entry of a judgment of conviction in light of the stipulated facts.

2. Whether the Crow Tribe may prohibit non-members from fishing in the portion of the Big Horn River that flows through their Reservation.

STATUTE INVOLVED

18 U.S.C. 1165 provides:

Whoever, without lawful authority or permission, willfully and knowingly goes upon any land that belongs to any Indian or Indian tribe, band, or group and either are held by the United States in trust or are subject to a restriction against alienation imposed by the United States, or upon any lands of the United States that are reserved for Indian use, for the purpose of hunting, trapping or fishing thereon, or for the removal of game, peltries, or fish therefrom, shall be fined not more than \$200 or imprisoned not more than ninety days, or both, and all game, fish, and peltries in his possession shall be forfeited.

STATEMENT

Petitioner was charged in an information filed in the United States District Court for the District of Montana with knowingly fishing upon lands reserved for Indian use, in violation of 18 U.S.C. 1165.

The case was submitted to the court on an agreed statement of facts, which showed that on May 5, 1974, petitioner went fishing at a site on the bank of the Big Horn River in Montana.¹ The bank and the bed of the River at that site are within the exterior boundaries of the Crow Indian Reservation. The State of Montana

¹The stipulation appears in the record on appeal.

owns the bank at the spot upon which petitioner stood, having acquired the property by purchase. Petitioner held a fishing license issued by the Montana State Fish and Game Commission; he was aware, however, that because he is not a member of the Crow Tribe he was violating an ordinance, promulgated by the Tribe, which forbids all non-members from entering Crow lands to fish.

The district court, after considering the agreed statement of facts, dismissed the information for failure to state an offense. The court held that the Crow Tribe does not own the bed of the Big Horn River (Pet. App. 3B-7B); that, regardless of the ownership of the bed of the river, the State of Montana, as owner of the lands from which petitioner fished, holds riparian rights to fish and could authorize petitioner to exercise them (*id.* at 7B-8B); and that, in any event, the Crow Tribe does not possess the authority to prohibit strangers from fishing because the Tribe's fishing rights on the Reservation are not exclusive (*id.* at 8B-13B).

The United States appealed; the court of appeals reversed and remanded for entry of a judgment of conviction based on the stipulation. The court first held that the United States could appeal the dismissal, because there would be no need for further findings of fact before entry of judgment (Pet. App. 2A-7A). Turning to the merits of the case, the court of appeals concluded that the bed of the Big Horn River is held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Crow Tribe (Pet. App. 7A-16A), that the tribal ordinance prohibiting non-members from fishing within the exterior boundaries of the Crow Indian Reservation is valid (*id.* at 18A-20A), and that the rights of the State of Montana, as a riparian landowner, to fish in the Big Horn River are inferior to the regulatory powers of the Crow Tribe (*id.* at 16A-18A).

ARGUMENT

1. Petitioner's contention (Pet. 4-5) that the government's appeal was barred by the Double Jeopardy Clause is incorrect. The prohibitions of the Double Jeopardy Clause are not activated unless a second trial is threatened, and "where a government appeal presents no threat of successive prosecutions, the Double Jeopardy Clause is not offended." *United States v. Martin Linen Supply Co.*, No. 76-120, decided April 4, 1977, slip op. 5.

This case was submitted to the district court on stipulated facts, and "[n]o additional facts must be found to determine whether the stipulation supports the conviction of the defendant" (Pet. App. 7A).² The court of appeals remanded for the entry of a judgment of conviction, without the need for "further proceedings of [any] sort, devoted to the resolution of *factual* issues going to the elements of the offense charged" (*United States v. Jenkins*, 420 U.S. 358, 370; emphasis added). The Double Jeopardy Clause therefore does not bar the government's appeal. See also *United States v. Morrison*, No. 75-1534, decided October 12, 1976 (Double Jeopardy Clause does not bar appeal that, if successful, will lead to reinstatement of general finding of guilt rather than to further factual proceedings relating to guilt or innocence); *United States v. Certified Grocers Co-Op*, 546 F. 2d 1308 (C.A. 7)

²Petitioner has conceded from the outset that he intentionally did what he is charged with doing, and he has argued only that his acts are not criminal. The stipulation of facts recites all of the elements of the offense (see Pet. App. 6A-7A). Although the stipulation stated that "this matter is hereby submitted to the court for its decision without further proof unless the court should desire proof on any point or points not covered herein to the satisfaction of the Court" (*id.* at 3A n. 2), the court of appeals properly concluded, in light of its discussion of the substantive law, that judgment may be entered based on the stipulation.

(Double Jeopardy Clause does not bar appeal after a finding of innocence in a bench trial, if a conviction may be entered without further factual proceedings).

2. The court of appeals exhaustively considered and properly rejected petitioner's contention that he may fish within the boundaries of the Reservation (Pet. App. 7A-20A). We rely on that opinion. As the court of appeals pointed out (*id.* at 7A-8A; footnote omitted), "[t]he United States either transferred beneficial ownership of the [River's] bed to the Crow Tribe by the treaties of 1851 and 1868 or retained ownership of the bed as public lands, which passed to the State of Montana upon the admission to the Union. [The] disposition of this case depends on which alternative the Government followed when it signed the treaties." Which alternative the United States followed depends upon a complicated analysis of treaties, the negotiations that led to them, and statutes implementing and altering them. See *Choctaw Nation v. Oklahoma*, 397 U.S. 620. This case presents no unsettled legal issue. It requires only the application, to the particular facts, treaties, and statutes involved here, of the unquestioned legal principles set out in *Choctaw Nation*. The court of appeals has performed the required analysis with scrupulous care, and no good purpose would be served by further review in this Court.³

Petitioner's further contention that the reservation of fishing rights to members of the Crow Tribe is improper or

³The State of Montana, as *amicus curiae*, contends that the court of appeals' decision portends erosion of the "equal footing" doctrine and of the principle that States ordinarily own the beds of navigable waters. It does not. The court of appeals recognized these principles (see Pet. App. 8A-10A) and held only that, pursuant to treaties, the United States had granted the bed of the Big Horn River to the Crow Tribe long before Montana was admitted into the Union.

unconstitutional (Pet. 7-9) is insubstantial. The Court has consistently rejected the argument that distinctions between tribal members and other persons constitute racial discrimination. *United States v. Antelope*, No. 75-661, decided April 19, 1977; *Moe v. Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes*, 425 U.S. 463; *Morton v. Mancari*, 417 U.S. 535.

Petitioner conceded that he fished on lands within the Indian Reservation, and he has not contended that Montana possesses general jurisdiction over these reservation lands. When a State does not possess general jurisdiction, Indian tribes may control the use of land without regard to the formal rules of "title," and in so doing they may favor members of the Tribe over non-members.⁴ Cf. *United States v. Muzurie*, 419 U.S. 544. Given the importance of fishing rights to Indian tribes (*Menominee Tribe of Indians v. United States*, 391 U.S. 404, 405-406), the Crow Tribe can hardly be thought to have surrendered in the treaties of 1851 and 1868 the right to exclude future white settlers from fishing within the Reservation.

⁴Similarly, federal law may prohibit fishing within the boundaries of a national park, even though this displaces more permissive state laws pertaining to navigable waters, owned by a State, within the park. *United States v. Brown*, C.A. 8, decided April 1, 1977. Cf. *Kleppe v. New Mexico*, 426 U.S. 529.

CONCLUSION

The petition for a writ of certiorari should be denied.

Respectfully submitted.

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APRIL 1977.

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IN THE
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FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

BRIEF FOR THE STATE OF MONTANA,
et al., AS *AMICI CURIAE* IN SUPPORT

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(Other States Joining Set Forth On Inside Cover)

The following States, by their respective Attorneys General, join in the views expressed herein:

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Attorney General
State of South Dakota

Allen I. Olson
Attorney General
State of North Dakota

Certain other interested States did not have an opportunity to fully examine the merits of the question presented prior to the printing of this *amici curiae* Brief in Opposition. The Office of the Clerk will be advised directly if they elect to join in the views expressed herein.

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IN THE
Supreme Court of the United States

OCTOBER TERM, 1976

No. 76-1206

JAMES JUNIOR FINCH,
Petitioner,

v.
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Respondent,

**ON PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI
TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT**

**AUTHORITY TO FILE BRIEF
AS *AMICI CURIAE***

The State of Montana et al., file this brief as *amici curiae* in support of the petition for a writ of certiorari pursuant to the authority granted by Supreme Court Rule 42,4.

INTEREST OF *AMICI CURIAE*

The State of Montana claims ownership of the entire bed and banks of the Big Horn River within the Crow Indian Reservation. At the very least, the State of Montana owns property rights to low water mark in the Big Horn River at the location of the alleged offense. The decision of the court below refuses to recognize Montana's ownership of the Big Horn River, fails to recognize Montana's ownership in the Big Horn River to at least low water mark at the location of the alleged offense, and is patently in conflict with *Oregon*

v. *Corvallis Sand & Gravel Co.* (No. 75-567) —U.S.—, 50 L.Ed.2d 550 (1977); *United States v. Holt State Bank*, 270 U.S. 49 (1926); *State of Oklahoma v. State of Texas*, 258 U.S. 574 (1921); *Brewer-Elliott Oil & Gas Co. v. United States*, 260 U.S. 77 (1922); *United States v. Champlin Refining Co.*, 156 F.2d 769 (10th Cir., 1946), aff'd 331 U.S. 788 (1947).

Moreover, the decision of the court below, if allowed to stand, is almost certain to have far-reaching effects. The court relied upon certain boilerplate provisions in the Treaty of 1868 with the Crow Indians, which provisions are also found in a host of treaties with other Indian tribes and bands.¹ The Court below has held, in effect, that in the typical reservation situation, the tribe, and not the state, holds title to the bed of navigable waters. This is directly contrary to this Court's decisions holding that the United States will not dispose of the soil beneath navigable waters but will hold it in trust for a future state, except in unusual cases where there is a clear intent shown to the contrary. *Choctaw Nation v. Oklahoma*, 397 U.S. 620 (1969); *United States v. Holt State Bank*, 270 U.S. 49 (1926); *Shively v. Bowlby*, 152 U.S. 1 (1893); compare this court's recent decision in *Oregon v. Corvallis Sand & Gravel Co.*, —U.S.—, 50 L.Ed.2d 550 (1977).

The likely result of allowing this decision to stand will be to eventually divest the individual states of title to the beds of countless navigable rivers and lakes throughout the western United States. As the present case illustrates, non-Indian fishing rights will be lost, even where, as here, access was from land held by the

¹ See note 6, *post*.

State specifically to facilitate use by its citizens of a river which was stocked and maintained by the State. In some cases, the right of non-Indians to go upon the waters will be lost. It is possible that the economically essential right of diverting water for irrigation will be lost to some holders of valid rights because their diversion mechanism will constitute a trespass upon tribal land, i.e., the bed of a stream. See Opinion below, Pet. for Cert., 16A. Indeed, an appropriate water right itself, being perfected and held under state law, may be of questionable validity once it is established that the right is to appropriate from a stream of which the state no longer holds title to the bed.

Finally, the decision below that the Crow Tribe received title by treaty in 1868 would apparently apply to all navigable waters within the larger former reservation that existed at that time, and would mean that title is presently retained by the Tribe notwithstanding several subsequent Acts providing for a cession and allotment of parts of the reservation. *Choctaw, supra*, at 641 (Douglas, J., concurring). This would be equally true for many other western reservations which are now substantially smaller than they were when treaties were signed. Thus, some states would be deprived of the ownership of the beds of most of the navigable waters within their borders.² This would virtually eviscerate the equal footing doctrine

² To give one example, the Treaty with the Sioux bands which created the Great Sioux Reservation, covering all of South Dakota west of the Missouri River was negotiated and signed at the same place and within one week of the Crow treaty construed below. It contained all of the provisions which the court below found to be determinative. 2 Kapp. 770, 774.

in these areas. In addition, the possible effects on the ability to exercise state water rights, or the validity of these rights, are of enormous consequence.

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ON PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI
TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

BRIEF FOR THE STATE OF MONTANA
et al., *AMICI CURIAE* IN SUPPORT

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the mere establishment of an Indian reservation, with the usual assurances to the Indians thereon of exclusive use and occupancy, divests a subsequently admitted state of its constitutional right under the equal footing doctrine to hold title to the beds of navigable waters within its borders.

2. Whether a settled rule of patent construction which vests Montana with riparian ownership in a navigable river to at least low water mark can be overruled *sub silentio*.

SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Amici adopts the statement as set forth in the petition supplemented by the following salient fact: The agreed Statement of Facts, upon which this case was decided by the lower courts, does not specify whether Finch's fishing line intruded upon the bed, bank or water of the Big Horn River below its low water mark.

REASONS FOR GRANTING THE WRIT

I. The Ruling of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Violates the "Equal Footing" Doctrine Establishing Ownership of Navigable Bodies of Water in the Various States.

As this Court has observed, Congress has constantly acted upon the theory that navigable waters and the soils under them

"***shall not be granted away during the period of territorial government; but, unless in case of of some international duty or public exigency, shall be held by the United States in trust for the future States***"

Shiveley v. Bowlby, 152 U.S. 1, 49-50 (1894)

See also *Packer v. Bird*, 137 U.S. 661, 672 (1891). A disposal during the territorial period is

"***not lightly to be inferred, and should not be regarded as intended unless the intention was definitely declared or otherwise made very plain."

United States v. Holt State Bank, 270 U.S. 49, 55 (1926)

In *Choctaw Nation v. Oklahoma*, 397 U.S. 620 (1969), this Court found such a public exigency, based on the unique history of the federal government's dealings with the Choctaw and Cherokee Indians. *Choctaw, supra*, at 622-626. The court found the requisite "very plain" intent in the fact that the land was conveyed to the Indians in fee simple and in the treaty provision that the land would never be "embraced in any Territory or State." *Choctaw, supra*, at 634-635.

In the present case, the court below found a public exigency in the mere establishment of an Indian reservation. It found language of "very plain" intent in mere boilerplate provisions that were also placed in a host of other contemporaneous treaties.³

The court first discussed the Crow treaty of 1851, but noted that its terms "fall far short of constituting an express grant of all lands, including the beds of navigable streams." Opinion below, Pet. for Cert., 11A. It then turned to the Treaty of 1868.⁴ The court relied almost exclusively upon two portions of Article 2 of that treaty for its holding that title to the bed was conveyed therein. These provisions guaranteed the Tribe "absolute and undisturbed use and occupation" and that "no person, except those herein designated and authorized to do so***shall ever be permitted to pass

³ See note 6, *post*.

⁴ The court first noted that the purpose of the 1868 treaty was to reduce the size of the Tribe's territory, citing this as a similarity to the *Choctaw* case where treaties were entered into for the same purpose. The court ignored the fact that the treaties discussed in *Holt State Bank* were also for that purpose. *Holt State Bank, supra*, at 58.

over, settle upon, or reside in" the reservation.⁵ This language was used in numerous other treaties with tribes such as the Navaho, Ute, Cheyenne, Sioux, Arapahoe, Kiowa, Comanche and Shoshoni.⁶ It is not indicative of the kind of exceptional public exigency that was involved in *Choctaw, supra*. It merely indicates the establishment of an Indian reservation, as was done in *Holt State Bank, supra*. Compare *Minnesota v. Hitchcock*, 187 U.S. 373, 389 (1902). (*Holt* reservation was "a reservation within the accepted meaning of the term") with *Atlantic & Pacific Rr. Co. v.*

⁵ The Court also relied on Art. 11 of the treaty, setting forth the requirement for obtaining a future cession agreement from the Tribe, as showing that the United States "recognized the extensive ownership rights" of the Tribe. Similar recognition was shown in the *Holt State Bank* situation, in the Act of January 14, 1889, 25 Stat. 642, which required the Chippewas' consent to a cession. These provisions should be contrasted with the *Choctaw* situation where no future cession was contemplated. The provision for a future cession by the Tribe is thus a factor which places the present case in the category of *Holt State Bank* and many other reservations, rather than the exceptional situation of *Choctaw*.

⁶ Treaty with the Navaho, 1868, 2 Kapp. 782; Treaty with the Utes, 1868, 2 Kapp. 765; Treaty with the Sioux bands, 1868, 2 Kapp. 770; Treaty with the Shoshoni and Bannock, 1868, 2 Kapp. 786-787; Treaty with the Cheyenne and Arapahoe, 1867, 2 Kapp. 760, 761; Treaty with the Kiowa and Comanche, 1867, 2 Kapp. 754, 755. Language nearly identical to that found in Art. 2 of all of these treaties and the Crow treaty is also found in numerous other treaties. See, *inter alia*, Treaty with the Klamath, Modoc and Snake bands, 1864, 2 Kapp. 865; Treaty with the Cheyenne and Arapahoe, 1865, 2 Kapp. 887, 888; Treaty with the Comanche and Kiowa, 1865, 2 Kapp. 892, 893.

All of the 1867 and 1868 treaties cited above also contained the provision regarding future cessions, found in Art. 11 of the Crow treaty, on which the court below also relied. See note 5, *supra*. This provision was recently considered by this court in *Rosebud Sioux Tribe v. Kneip*, —U.S.— (April 4, 1976), as it appeared in the 1868 Sioux treaty.

Mingus, 165 U.S. 413, 435-436 (1897). (*Choctaw* reservation was "for most purposes***to be considered as an independent country").

The facts in this case are totally inapposite to *Choctaw*:

1. The entire region which was originally made a part of the Crow Indian Reservation was not conveyed to the Crow Tribe.⁷
2. There were no assurances of self-government extended to the Crow tribe of Indians.
3. There were no pledges to the Crow that their new homeland would never be part of any state; and finally,
4. Fee simple title to the land was retained by the

⁷ The guarantees of tribal exclusivity which were persuasive in *Choctaw* are totally absent here. Instead of fee simple title only "use and occupation" were conveyed. Art. II, Treaty of May 7, 1868, 15 Stat. 650. Art. VI of the treaty contemplated allotment of lands to the Indians. *Id.*, at 651. Subsequently, vast areas of land were ceded to the United States. Act of April 11, 1882, 22 Stat. 42; Act of July 10, 1882, 22 Stat. 157; Act of March 3, 1891, 26 Stat. 989; Act of February 12, 1889, 25 Stat. 660; Act of June 4, 1888, 25 Stat. 167; Act of April 27, 1904, 33 Stat. 352. Finally, on June 4, 1920, 41 Stat. 751, the Crow Allotment Act was passed and out of a total reservation land area of 1,554,253.87 acres, 1,209,949.18 acres have been allotted. *Federal and State Indian Reservations*, United States Department of Commerce; U.S. Government Printing Office, 1974, p. 271. By the same Act, the State of Montana received fee simple title to Sections 16 and 36 as school grant lands for a total of 45,011.72 acres. *Id.*, 41 Stat. 756. Some of these school grant lands straddle the Big Horn River and encompass its bed and banks.

United States, and thus the Indian title was one of use and occupancy as opposed to fee simple.⁸

In *Holt State Bank*, this court rejected the contention that "merely assigning the lands to an Indian reservation prevented their passage to the State." *Choctaw*, Brief of United States, *amicus*, p. 21.

When Montana became a state in 1889,⁹ the fee to the Big Horn River was owned by the United States. The rationale of *Holt* is that "under the constitutional principle of equality among the several states, the title to Mud Lake then passed to the state***if the bed had not already been disposed of by the United States." *Holt*, at 55.

This "constitutional principle of equality" upon which *Holt* was dependent has been given renewed vitality in *Oregon v. Corvallis Sand & Gravel Co.*, *supra*. *Corvallis* holds that the State of Montana, upon its admission to the Union, received absolute title to the beds of navigable waterways within its boundaries:

"Citing *Martin v. Waddell*, 16 Pet. 410, 10 L.Ed 997 (1842), the Court noted that the original States held the 'absolute right to all their navigable waters, and the soils under them for their own common use, subject only to the rights since surrendered by the Constitution.' How., at 229, 11 L.Ed 565. The Court then concluded:

⁸ The "use and occupancy" title of the Crow is nearly identical to the title held by the Chippewas which was insufficient to convince this court to vest title in Mud Lake in that tribe. *United States v. Holt State Bank*, *supra*; *Minnesota v. Hitchcock*, 185 U.S. 373 (1902).

⁹ Act of February 22, 1889, 25 Stat. 676.

'First, The shores of navigable waters, and the soils under them, were not granted by the Constitution to the United States, but were reserved to the states respectively. Secondly, The new states have the same rights, sovereignty, and jurisdiction over this subject as the original states. Thirdly, The right of the United States to the public lands, and the power of Congress to make all needful rules and regulations for the sale and disposition thereof, conferred no power to grant to the plaintiffs the land in controversy****' *Id.*, at 230, 11 L.Ed 565.'

"In so holding, the Court established the absolute title of the States to the beds of navigable waters, a title which neither a provision in the Act admitting the State to the Union nor a grant from Congress to a third party was capable of defeating.

"Thus under Pollard's Lessee the State's title to lands underlying navigable waters within its boundaries is conferred not by Congress but by the Constitution itself." (Emphasis supplied)

—U.S.—, 50 L.Ed2d at 560.

The Enabling Act admitting the State of Montana to the Union stated that it was "to be admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the original states."¹⁰

In *Cardwell v. American Bridge Co.*, 113 U.S. 205, 212 (1885), this court said:

"The act admitting California declares that she is 'admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the original states in all respects whatever.' She was not, therefore, shorn by the clause as to navigable water within her limits of any of the powers

¹⁰ Act of February 22, 1889, 25 Stat. 676.

which the original states possessed over such waters within their limits."¹¹

The lower court completely disregarded the basic tenets established by this court in *Pollard's Lessee v. Hagan*, 3 How. 212 (1845), reconfirmed in *Corvallis* and predicated its decision upon a thin tissue of treaty language. But there is nothing in that treaty language which "approaches a grant of rights in lands underlying navigable waters; nor anything evincing a purpose to depart from the established policy (*Corvallis*, *supra* of treating such lands as held for the benefit of the future state." (Parenthetical words inserted) *Holt* at 58-59.

II. The Decision Below Completely Ignores the Fact That the State of Montana Owns Title to At Least Low Water Mark.

The lower court's decision is dependent upon whether or not Finch went "on any land that belonged to any Indian or Indian tribe***and either are held by the United States in trust or are subject to a restriction against alienation imposed by the United States; or upon any lands of the United States that are reserved

¹¹ See also *Willamette Iron Bridge Co. v. Hatch*, 125 U.S. 1, 9 (1887); *Escanaba v. City of Chicago*, 107 U.S. 678, 689 (1882); *Withers v. Buckley*, 20 How. 84, 92-93 (1857). As this court observed in *Ward v. Race Horse*, 163 U.S. 504, 16 S.Ct. 1078, "'(A) treaty may supersede a prior act of Congress, and an act of Congress supersede a prior treaty,' is elementary. *Fong Yue Ting v. United States*, 149 U.S. 698, 13 S.Ct. 1016; *The Cherokee Tobacco*, 11 Wall 621. In the last case, it was held that a law of Congress imposing a tax on tobacco, if in conflict with a prior treaty with the Cherokees, was paramount to the treaty." Thus, when Congress passed the Enabling Act admitting Montana to the Union on an "equal footing," that Act abrogated any treaty restrictions which would defeat Montana's sovereign equality.

for Indian use***.¹² Assuming, *arguendo*, that the Big Horn River falls within the scope of 18 U.S.C., Section 1165, and assuming, *arguendo*, that the Crow tribe owns the bed of the river, that ownership is restricted to low water mark. There is no fact in the record from which one can conclude that Finch's fishing line intruded below low water mark. If Finch's fish line did not intrude into the water below low water mark, he was not upon Indian land nor did his actions fall within the scope of 18 U.S.C., Section 1165; thus, the lower court's decision must be reversed.

No rule is more firmly entrenched in federal jurisprudence than the principle that federal grants-patents to tribal-reservation land are to be construed according to the laws of the state in which the Indian lands are located. *State of Oklahoma v. State of Texas*, 258 U.S. 574, 594-595, 598 (1921); *Brewer-Elliott Oil & Gas Co. v. United States*, 260 U.S. 77, 88-89 (1922); *United States v. Champlin Refining Co.*, 156 F.2d 769, 773 (10th Cir., 1946), *aff'd* 331 U.S. 788-789 (1947); *United States v. Oklahoma Gas & Electric Co.*, 318

¹² 18 U.S.C., Section 1165; *United States v. Finch*, Pet. App. A, P. 7A.

U.S. 206, 209-210 (1942); compare *Whitaker v. McBride*, 197 U.S. 510 (1904).¹³

In *United States v. Champlin Refining Co.*, *supra*, 156 F.2d, at 773, the rule of construction was applied to navigable waters:

"Grants by the United States of its public lands bounded on streams or other waters, *navigable or non-navigable*, made without reservation or restriction, are to be construed as to their effect according to the law of the state in which the land lies. As regards such conveyances, the United States assumes the position of a private owner, subject to the general law of the state. *Where it is disposing of tribal lands of Indians under guardianship, the same rule applies.*"¹⁴ (Emphasis supplied)

¹³ The rule articulated in the cited cases has been consistently applied in similar controversies — some involving former Indian lands. See, e.g., *Hardin v. Shedd*, 190 U.S. 508, 509 (1902); *Shiveley v. Bowlby*, 152 U.S. 1, 45 (1894); *Hardin v. Jordan*, 140 U.S. 371 (1891); *Packer v. Bird*, 137 U.S. 661 (1891); *Choctaw & Chickasaw Nations v. Board of County Commissioners*, 361 F.2d 932, 933 (10th Cir., 1966); *Choctaw & Chickasaw Nations v. Seay*, 235 F.2d 30, 35 (10th Cir., 1956); *Herron v. Choctaw & Chickasaw Nations*, 228 F.2d 830, 832 (10th Cir., 1956); *United States v. Elliott*, 131 F.2d 720, 723 (10th Cir., 1942); *Shore v. Shell Petroleum Corp.*, 55 F.2d 696, 902, *aff'd* 60 F.2d 1, 2 (10th Cir., 1932); *United States v. Hayes*, 20 F.2d 873, 889-890 (8th Cir., 1927) *cert.den* 275 U.S. 555; *United States v. Heinrich*, 12 F.2d 938, 939 (D.Mont., 1926). While as pointed out in *United States v. Oregon*, 295 U.S. 1, 27-28 (1935), the construction of federal grants is initially a federal question the federal courts traditionally defer to state rules of construction. Under state law, of course, Montana would own the bank and shore to *low-water mark*. See, e.g., Section 67-712 and Section 89-601, Revised Codes of Montana, 1947; *Fawcette v. Dewey Lumber Co.*, 82 Mont. 250, 266 P. 646 (1928); *C. F. Mettler v. Ames Realty Co.*, 61 Mont. 152, 201 P. 702 (1921); *Gibson v. Kelly*, 15 Mont. 417, 422, 39 P. 517 (1895).

¹⁴ Compare *Oregon v. Corvallis Sand & Gravel Co.*, *supra*, 50 L.Ed.2d, at 564 and *Shiveley v. Bowlby*, 152 U.S. 1, 57-58 (1893).

Montana state law then becomes controlling as to whether the grant to Muskrat, the original Indian allottee, extended to either high or low water mark. Montana law categorically declares that the owner of land riparian to navigable waters owns to low water mark. Section 67-712 and Section 89-601, Revised Codes of Montana, 1947; *Fawcette v. Dewey Lumber Co.*, 82 Mont. 250, 266 P. 646 (1928); *C. F. Mettler v. Ames Realty Co.*, 61 Mont. 152, 201 P. 702 (1921); *Gibson v. Kelly*, 15 Mont. 417, 422, 39 P. 517 (1895).

"*Except where the grant under which the land is held indicates a different intent, the owner of the land, when it borders upon a navigable lake or stream, takes to the edge of the lake or stream at low-water mark; when it borders upon any other water, the owner takes to the middle of the lake or stream.*" Section 67-712 (Emphasis supplied)

The patent to Muskrat "indicates (no) different intent."¹⁵

Since the United States, in the agreed facts, failed to establish Finch's line invaded the Big Horn River below low water mark, obviously it has failed to prove an essential fact to conviction.

¹⁵ The granting clause in Muskrat's patent states:

"NOW KNOW YE That the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in consideration of the premises, HAS GIVEN AND GRANTED, and by these presents DOES GIVE AND GRANT, unto the said claimant and to the heirs of the said claimant the Land above described; TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances, of whatsoever nature, thereunto belonging, unto the said claimant and to the heirs and assigns of the said claimant forever, and there is reserved from the lands hereby granted a right of way thereon for ditches or canals constructed by the authority of the United States."

CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, certiorari should be granted.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this —— day of
April, 1977.

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IN THE
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JAMES JUNIOR FINCH,
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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Respondent.

**BRIEF OF AMICUS CURIAE CROW TRIBE OF
INDIANS IN OPPOSITION TO PETITION FOR
WRIT OF CERTIORARI**

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Other:	
Crow Treaty of 1868, 18 Stat. 649	3, 5
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IN THE
Supreme Court of the United States

OCTOBER TERM, 1976

No. 76-1206

JAMES JUNIOR FINCH,
Petitioner,

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Respondent.

BRIEF OF AMICUS CURIAE CROW TRIBE OF
INDIANS IN OPPOSITION TO PETITION FOR
WRIT OF CERTIORARI

This amicus curiae brief is filed by the Crow Tribe of Indians of Montana, with the consent of both parties. The Crow Tribe, as the lawful government of the Crow Indian Reservation and as the owner by treaty of the exclusive right to hunt and fish on the Reservation, and of the waterspace where the prohibited fishing took place, is the real party in interest, and is the party actually aggrieved by petitioner's violation of the Indian trespass act, 18 U.S.C. § 1165.

A decision on the merits of this appeal substantially affects the inherent sovereignty of the Crow Tribe and its authority to control hunting and fishing within the exterior boundaries of the Crow Reservation. Further,

such a decision directly affects the ability of the Tribe to manage and regulate the development of all of its natural resources and the control over the social, cultural and environmental ramifications of this management within the exterior boundaries of the reservation.

It is the position of the Crow Tribe that the well-reasoned decision of the Court of Appeals should not be disturbed, and that certiorari should be denied.

QUESTION PRESENTED

The question presented is whether Petitioner, a non-Indian, is entitled to fish in the Big Horn River inside the Crow Reservation (see map, Appendix A below) despite the fact that (a) the Tribe owns the bed of the river and the waterspace above it,* and (b) the Tribe has an ordinance (Appendix B below) prohibiting fishing on the reservation by non-members. If Petitioner is not entitled to so fish, then the Court of Appeals correctly held that he was in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1165, which provides:

"Whoever, without lawful authority or permission, willfully and knowingly goes upon any land that belongs to any Indian or Indian tribe . . . for the purpose of . . . fishing thereon . . . shall be fined not more than \$200 or imprisoned not more than ninety days, or both"

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

The Crow Tribe basically accepts the statement of the case as set forth by the Petition for Writ of Certiorari (Pet.) at pp. 2-3.

* Or more precisely, the United States owns the bed and waterspace in trust for the Crow Tribe.

REASONS FOR DENYING THE PETITION

1. On the question of ownership of the streambed, the Court of Appeals below made no new law. It merely followed *Choctaw Nation v. Oklahoma*, 397 U.S. 620 (1970), which held that ownership of the streambed of a navigable river within an Indian reservation depends on the facts—what the treaty says, what the United States intended, and what the Indians understood.

Proceeding accordingly, the court made a thorough factual analysis of those factors, and concluded (Pet. pp. 14A-15A):

"It is quite clear, in light of the foregoing, that in establishing the Crow Reservation, the United States intended that all lands therein, including the riverbed, were to be for the exclusive use of the tribe."

Petitioner says (p. 7) that the Court of Appeals held "that the mere creation of an Indian reservation, having within its boundaries, a navigable stream, is evidence of the intention of the United States to deviate from the national policy of reserving beds of navigable water bodies for future states."

The Court of Appeals held no such thing. What the court did was, first, it analyzed the *Choctaw* and *Holt Bank* cases to see how this Court approached similar problems in the past (Pet. pp. 8A-10A). Then it analyzed at length the relevant treaties, the negotiations, and the surrounding facts (Pet. pp. 10A-16A). Then it weighed the pros and cons, and concluded that the Crow case was more like *Choctaw* than *Holt Bank*, so that the Crow Tribe, like the Choctaw Tribe, owned the streambed.

Although not relied upon by the Court of Appeals in its opinion, Art. II of the Crow Treaty of 1868, 18 Stat. 649, defines part of the Crow reservation boundary as "thence up said mid-channel of the Yellowstone" River.

We submit that this description is clear proof that Congress intended to grant the bed out to the mid-channel, and indirect proof that Congress intended to grant the full width of the bed to the Tribe in locations where it lay entirely within reservation boundaries. The District Court's first opinion (page C-3 n.1 below) relied on this in holding that the Tribe owned the bed. Similar language supported this Court's conclusion in *Choctaw*, 397 U.S. at 631-633. This method of description was continued in subsequent statutes which redefined the reservation boundaries. Act of April 11, 1882, 22 Stat. 42, a grant of right-of-way to the Northern Pacific on July 10, 1882, 22 Stat. 157; and the ceding of reservation lands in the Act of March 3, 1891, 26 Stat. 989, 1039.

It is interesting to note that the District Court, in ruling for Petitioner, reversed its own previous (unreported) ruling on September 4, 1974, in this same case (reprinted below, Appendix C), that the riverbed of the Big Horn River was in fact owned by the Tribe. The court said,

"... the conclusion is inescapable that the river bed of the portion of the Big Horn River in question belongs to the Crow Tribe." At p. C-3 below.

The record does not show why the District Court changed its mind.

2. The Court of Appeals further concluded that the casting of a fishing line and lure from non-Indian land into the waters over the tribally owned riverbed is an intrusion sufficient to constitute a trespass (Pet. p. 16A). This is not new law, see Prosser on Torts, § 13 at 69 (1971), cited by the Court of Appeals. The Court of Appeals was clearly right.

3. The Court of Appeals also rejected the claim that the tribal ordinance (banning non-members from fishing on the reservation, see Appendix B below) violated

equal protection of the laws as guaranteed by the Indian Civil Rights Act, 25 U.S.C. § 1302(8) (Pet. p. 20A). The court was clearly right, and laid down no new principles. This Court has had four recent occasions to consider laws treating Indians differently than others. In each case, this Court concluded that the differences in treatment were constitutionally permissible. *Morton v. Mancari*, 417 U.S. 535 (1974); *Moe v. Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes*, 425 U.S. 463 (1976), both cited by the Court of Appeals; and see also *United States v. Antelope*, Apr. 19, 1977, U.S. Law Week 4362; *Fisher v. District Court*, 424 U.S. 382, 390-391 (1976). See also *United States v. Pollmann*, 364 F. Supp. 995, 1002 (D. Mont. 1973), a case involving, like the instant case, a non-Indian fisherman prosecuted under 18 U.S.C. § 1165.

4. The Court of Appeals also held that a riparian right to fish, if any existed, was subject to regulation by the governing authorities (Pet. p. 18A, footnote 23). The Court stated that the existence of any riparian right to fish must be determined by federal law (Pet. p. 17A). The court then concluded that the language and history of 18 U.S.C. § 1165 indicates that the right in the Crow Tribe to control hunting, trapping, and fishing on its lands is a "prerogative of ownership which the United States recognizes as a matter of federal law" (Pet. p. 19A).

The court could hardly have reached any other conclusion, in light of Art. II of the 1868 Treaty, 15 Stat. 649 (quoted by the Court of Appeals, see Pet. p. 14A) which provides that "no person", with certain exceptions not here relevant,

"... shall ever be permitted to pass over, settle upon, or reside in the territory described in this article for the use of said Indians..."

CONCLUSION

Wherefore, Amicus Curiae, Crow Tribe, submits that the Court of Appeals was correct on each of the issues presented by the Petition, and that no important question requiring a further examination of the opinion of the Court of Appeals is necessary. There is no confusion or conflict with cases in other jurisdictions that would justify the granting of this writ, and Petitioner cites no such conflict. The petition for certiorari should be denied.

Respectfully submitted,

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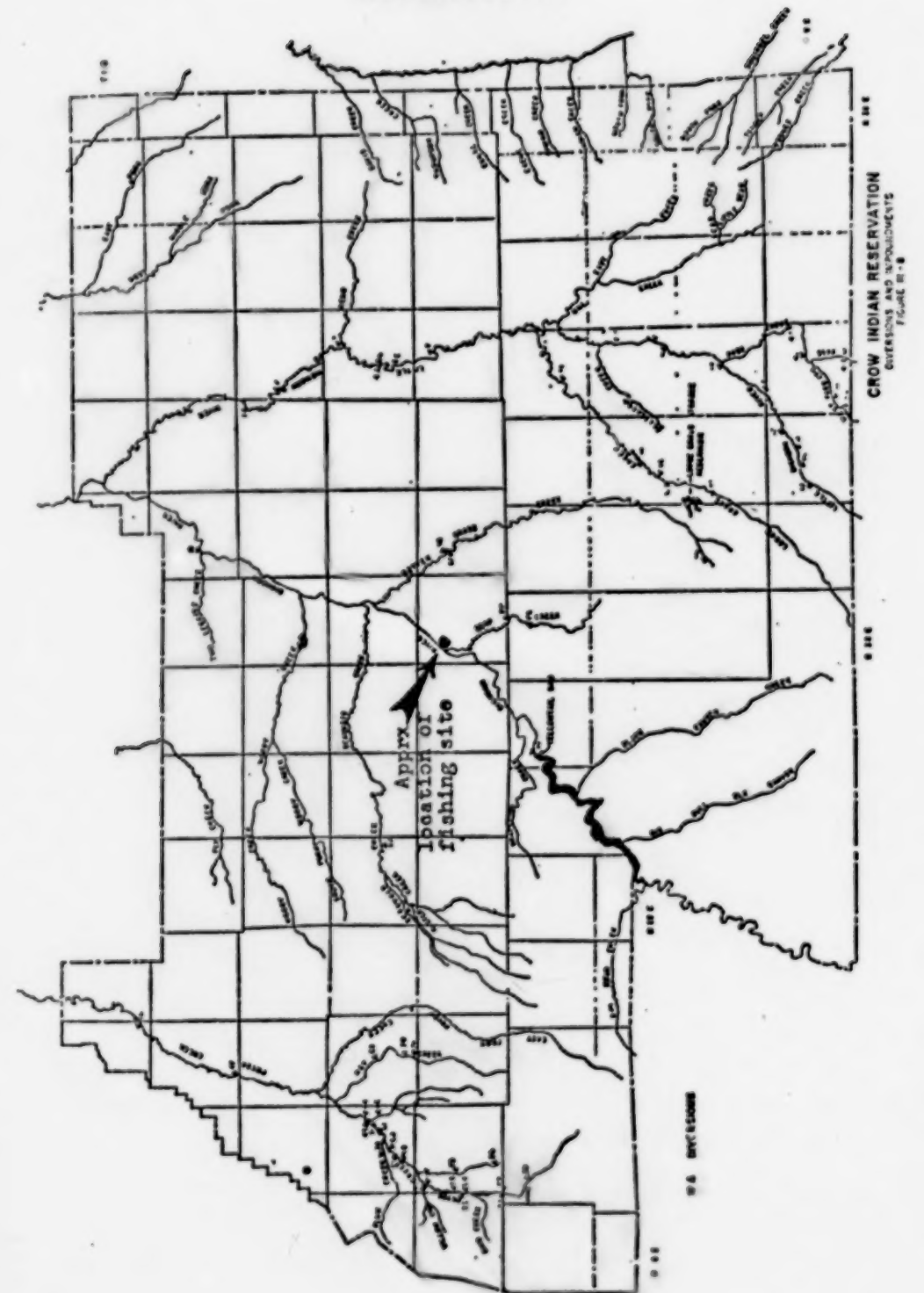
CATE, LYNAUGH & FITZGERALD
Of Counsel

April, 1977

APPENDICES

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APPENDIX A



APPENDIX B

RESOLUTION NO. 74-05

RESOLUTION TO RESTRICT HUNTING ON THE
CROW INDIAN RESERVATION BY THE ADOPTION
OF AN ORDINANCE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, during the past decade there has been a 28% increase in the enrollment of the Crow Tribe and there has been an unprecedented rise in the prices of meat and meat products, and all of these things have caused economic hardships on Crow Tribal members, and

WHEREAS, by virtue of Resolutions No. 64-20 and 67-12 passed, approved, and adopted on November 16, 1963 and September 17, 1966 by the Crow General Council, the Crow Tribe has permitted limited hunting of small game and birds and has permitted fishing on the Crow Indian Reservation, and has caused to be sold hunting and fishing licenses to non-enrolled members of the area and other people thus permitting these said people to hunt and fish within the exterior boundaries of the Crow Reservation, and

WHEREAS, there now exists a shortage of game and fish and this shortage causes an economic hardship to members of the Crow Tribe who for centuries have depended on game to supplement their diet, so

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that to help alleviate the game and fish shortage and to help the economic condition of the Crow people that Resolutions No. 64-20 and 67-12 as passed, approved and adopted by the Crow Tribal Council on November 16, 1963 and September 17, 1966 are herewith rescinded, repealed, and removed from the Crow Tribal records, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that no more hunting licenses shall be sold to nonenrolled people, and that the

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following Ordinance shall regulate hunting and fishing on the Crow Reservation from this day forth, and said Ordinance shall read as follows:

ORDINANCE

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Crow Tribe, meeting in a duly held and noticed Council that hunting, fishing, and trespassing within the exterior boundaries of the Crow Indian Reservation is hereby prohibited and the proper officials of the United States and the Crow Tribe of Indians are hereby directed and authorized to enforce the provisions of this ordinance and any Federal Statute which would prohibit such hunting and fishing and trespassing, provided, however, that the provisions of this ordinance shall no [sic] apply to members of the Crow Tribe of Indians.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Crow Tribal officers informed the State Fish and Game Department for the State of Montana and Bureau of Indian Affairs (United States Department Interior) that hunting and fishing on the Crow Indian Reservation is hereby closed.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Crow Tribal Council this 13th day of October, 1973 by unanimous votes for passage and adoption and no votes against passage and adoption.

ATTEST:	/s/ David J. Stewart
	DAVID J. STEWART,
/s/ Frederick V. Lefthand	CHAIRMAN
FREDERICK V. LEFTHAND,	Crow Tribal Council
SECRETARY	
Crow Tribal Council	/s/ George A. Laverdore
	GEORGE A. LAVERDORE,
	ACTG. SUPERINTENDENT
	Crow Indian Reservation

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APPENDIX C

(First order of District Court holding
that Crow Tribe owns bed of river)

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA BILLINGS DIVISION

CR-74-25-BLG

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Plaintiff,

—vs—

JAMES JUNIOR FINCH,
Defendant.

ORDER

Presently pending in this action is the motion of defendant to dismiss. The Information on file herein charges that the defendant

“ . . . did without lawful authority or permission and for the purpose of fishing thereon, unlawfully and knowingly go upon land . . . , being a portion of the Big Horn River. The said JAMES JUNIOR FINCH was standing upon the land belonging to the State of Montana for the benefit and use of the State Fish and Game Commission, while fishing in said Big Horn River, said river being Indian Trust Land, closed to hunting and fishing to all non-Crow citizens, all contrary to the provisions of 18 U.S.C. § 1165.”

18 U.S.C. § 1165 reads in pertinent part:

"Whoever, without lawful authority or permission willfully and knowingly goes upon any land that belongs to any Indian or Indian tribe, band, or group, and either are held by the United States in trust or are subject to a restriction against alienation imposed by the United States, or upon any lands of the United States that are reserved for Indian use, for the purpose of . . . fishing thereon, or for the removal of . . . fish therefrom, shall be fined . . ."

Defendant's motion raises the following issue: Whether or not the casting of a lure in the Big Horn River by a non-Crow citizen could constitute a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1165. Essential to the resolving of this issue is a determination of whether the portion of the river bed in question belongs to the Crow Tribe.

The defendant points to the case of *United States v. Holt State Bank*, 270 U.S. 49 (1926), where the United States Supreme Court found that title to the bed of Mud Lake, a navigable waterway within the Red Lake Reservation, had not been granted by treaty or Act of Congress to the Chippewa Indians. The Court stated:

"There was no formal setting apart of what was not deeded, nor any affirmative declaration of rights of Indians therein, nor any attempted exclusion of others from the use of navigable waters. The effect of what was done was to reserve in a general way for the continued occupation of the Indians what remained of their aboriginal territory; and thus came to be known and recognized as a reservation. *Minnesota v. Hitchcock*, 185 U.S. 373, 380. There was nothing in this which even approaches a grant of rights in lands underlying navigable waters; or anything evincing a purpose apart from the established policy, before stated, of treating such lands as held for the benefit of the future state. 270 U.S. at 258-59.

Implicit in the above language is the recognition that the United States may, by treaty or Act of Congress, grant Indians title in river beds. Thus, the Supreme Court held in *Choctaw Nation v. Oklahoma*, 397 U.S. 620 (1970); that the Choctaw Nation received title to land underlying a navigable portion of the Arkansas River. The Court stated at 397 U.S. 634:

"Together, petitioners were granted fee simple title to a vast tract of land through which the Arkansas River winds its course. The natural inference from those grants is that all the land within their metes and bounds was conveyed, including the banks and bed of rivers."

Considering *Choctaw Nation*, the treaties involved in this case, and the nature of the Crow Tribe's title, the conclusion is inescapable that the river bed of the portion of the Big Horn River in question belongs to the Crow Tribe.¹ See *U.S. v. Haug and Mill*, Misc. Crim. No. 511 (Memorandum Opinion and Order dated June 9, 1971).

Thus, the casting of a lure in the Big Horn River by a non-Crow citizen could constitute a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1165. As Judge Jameson has held in *United States v. Pollman*, 364 F.Supp. 995 (1973):

"Land * * * includes not only the soil or earth, but also things of a permanent nature affixed thereto or found therein, whether by nature, as water * * *."

¹ The Act of March 3, 1891, describes a portion of the border of ceded land as follows:

". . . thence in a due easterly course on a parallel of latitude to a point where it intersects the midchannel of the Big Horn River, thence following up the midchannel of said river to a point where it crosses the Montana and Wyoming state line." (§ 1.)

Such a boundary designation running to the midline of the channel of the river in question is a clear indication that Congress intended to convey a part of the river bed and to retain the remainder of the river bed within the Reservation.

It embraces not only the surface of the earth, but everything under or over it. * * * It has in its legal signification an indefinite extent upward and downward. * * * Black's Law Dictionary (Revised Fourth Edition 1968)." 364 F.Supp. at 999.

Ownership of the waters of the Big Horn River is not critical for determination of the motion pending before this Court. Title 18 U.S.C. § 1165 defines an offense against the United States over which this Court has jurisdiction. Within the wording of the statute, the information charges the defendant with unlawful fishing upon Crow Tribal land. The information is sufficient on its face.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that defendant's motion to dismiss is denied.

Also pending in this action is the motion of the State of Montana, acting by and through the State Fish and Game Commission, to appear in these proceedings as *amicus curiae* with right to submit to the Court arguments and briefs as may be appropriate. Good cause appearing therefor, IT IS ORDERED that said motion be granted.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that counsel appear before the Court, in Chambers at Billings, Montana, at 9:30 o'clock a.m. Monday, October 7, 1974, for the purpose of a pretrial conference.

Done and dated this 4th day of September, 1974.

/s/ James F. Battin
United States District Judge